

Greetings,

I write this on the eve of a Monday hearing, which was announced Friday, for a bill with far-reaching and damaging consequences.

Seriously, what's up with all the draconian land use bills coming out of Salem?

Local control for all Oregon cities/towns has helped create some pretty great places, ones full of character, history, and people who enjoy those communities for what they are. Where people have a say and stake in where they live, communities are all the richer for it.

So please give SB10 the heave-ho. Kowtowing to developers' desire for ever-increasing density won't help Portland, for instance. It will hurt it. With zero protections for existing affordable housing, this will be the first to go to make yet more market-rate apartment and condo blocks, many of which never lease up (see Craigslist where a thousand new listings are posted daily and the "For Rent" signs that never go away outside new builds).

We know Wall Street has entered the housing market big-time (the recently passed "rent control" measure with its laughable limit doesn't even apply to new construction—further proof that the dealmakers behind these bad deals for Oregon are the ones with the actual communities' interests at heart). At least in Portland, we are slowly moving toward more representational leadership; Salem ought to, too. (A billionaire developer from Washington has already hired three Portland nonprofits to push his business plan of tearing down old-growth construction for "trophy communities with a ... high barrier to entry"—or luxury plexing. Neighbors and neighborhoods lose under this kind of business plan.)

We don't need yet more vacant units that few people can afford. Build that stuff on historic vacant land if you have to, but leave our viable modest housing alone and kill SB10 and its ilk, HB2001 and, here in Portland, the Residential Infill Project.

Portland and other Oregon cities evolved through decades of careful land use planning; SB10 undoes it. For whom, at expense of whom?

Thanks for listening, Margaret Davis