

Testimony against HB 2001

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I urge you to reject House Bill 2001 with all amendments. HB 2001 is a broad-brush attempt to solve a housing affordability crisis that is found in every large city in every region that is experiencing growth. It is a simplistic response to a very complex problem that is not well understood although some economists believe the solution is in increasing the supply of housing. Increasing the supply by allowing denser development in all single-family residential zones does not guarantee that affordable housing will be produced or that the price of housing will go down.

Oregon's land use planning laws have been in place for almost 50 years. One of the original precepts was local control. HB 2001 will essentially remove local control and mandate a state-wide, non-specific solution to providing more housing. It negates 50 years of good work by cities.

I live in Portland, a complex urban area. I sit on several city advisory bodies: The Development Review Advisory Committee, the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Community Involvement Committee, and the Multnomah County Community Involvement Committee. My opinion does NOT represent the opinion of these advisory bodies, but I understand what is happening with affordable housing in the City. The City is working to address the issue of affordable housing at a deliberate rate which is not fast enough for some because the need is great. The City's current governance structure does not help in either expediting the speed of addressing the affordable housing crisis nor finding a good solution. Please do not let what I perceive is partly a local governance issue in Portland drive placing a statewide mandate for housing development on most cities.

I urge you to reject HB 2001, which is a short-sighted, poorly detailed approach to a complex issue. Every community needs to find their own solution that fits the local political and economic conditions.

Sincerely,
Claire Carder