

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development:

I oppose the passage of HB 2001A.

I've spent most of my adult life in various capital cities overseas, so am not "afraid of change" or "in love with cars," nor do I "hate density." I do, however, feel very strongly that Oregon cityscapes should be shaped in the interests of and with the participation of residents. HB 2001A will take away the ability of local governments to determine appropriate zoning, planning and development in their own districts.

As I understand it, the rationale for this bill is the urgent need to alleviate housing shortages/lack of affordability and address climate change; yet this bill does none of these things. There is no mandate for affordability of new infill housing, no mandate to assess the environmental impacts of demolitions and new construction, no infrastructure funding. We can see all around us the shape that investor-led development is taking in the loss of small and useful businesses, the erection of massive, generic boxes with little or no green space, the displacement of lower and middle-income renters, and the pricing out of aspiring homeowners. Mass up-zoning, without careful planning, regulation and human-scale design guidelines, is not going to produce the walkable, inclusive, environmentally-friendly neighborhoods imagined by its promoters.

I urge you to vote no on this bill.

Thank you.

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