

June 3, 2023

Oregon House Committee on Rules

Re. HB 3414 as amended - **SUPPORT**

I am a Portland resident and occasionally-engaged Oregon citizen. I'm appalled at the number of people forced to sleep on the streets. Consistent with this¹ reporting by the local TV station **KGW**, I see the strong link between high housing costs and homelessness. Abundant new construction is clearly a way to force markets to accept lower prices for older dwellings.

A well-respected local home builder once told me that process and pricing of construction is like a death-by-a-thousand-cuts. Our city and state governments have adopted regulatory provisions that add to this burden — many of these with good reason, but each and every one of them makes it harder to accommodate new buildings.

It's time to acknowledge that aside from life-safety considerations and severe objective environmental degradation, most of these rules and processes should be set aside. This is especially true for the aesthetic burdens we impose over large land areas like those we find in historic districts.

HB 3414 doesn't go nearly far enough, but it's a step in the right direction.

Thank you,

Sam Noble

Portland, OR

¹ <https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/homeless/new-study-housing-market-root-cause-homelessness/283-819457a7-9606-42c6-9cb3-62bd25661d2b>