

Submitter: Robert Galanakis

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB2659

There is ample evidence, both academic and lived, of the harmful impacts of parking minimums (and other restrictive zoning). There is a reason every single walkable neighborhood and downtown in Oregon was developed before parking minimums- it's impossible to have a sufficiently dense development while adhering to parking minimums. I am not an professional, but it's very easy to verify what experts and professionals on parking reform say in this area.

Our current housing affordability crisis- and the accompanying, inevitable, homelessness crisis- is a direct outcome of these zoning laws that have impoverished our citizens and communities. Oregon is currently a leader in the way forward out of this national housing crisis. To strangle that leadership in the cradle would be a mistake that makes it impossible for our cities and communities to mature into an economically and ecologically sustainable form. I am big on Oregon and big on our cities- but they need to be set up to grow and evolve without proven-harmful laws like parking minimums. Likewise, in order to protect the environment, we cannot continue the pattern of taxpayer-subsidized, underutilized parking everywhere- it is hard to imagine a worse use of land, on any vector, than underutilized parking.

I implore bill sponsors to follow the evidence and facts around the impacts of parking minimums, and understand their impacts in every part of our lives. I am strongly and vocally opposed to this bill.