

Submitter: Christopher Dean
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

I am a Portland resident of 13 years, and in that time I've rented and lived in many parts of the city. I chose the neighborhood I live in now because it's walkable and all kinds of amenities are easily accessible without requiring a car. This is only possible because it's relatively densely populated compared to most of the surrounding areas.

There's a reason such places are in high demand, and more of them need to exist or else the cost of housing will remain high forever. The way we've designed our cities and suburbs in America has forced most people into a car-dependent, spread out lifestyle. It exacerbates the continued problems of pollution, noise, and sprawl. Addressing the acute housing shortage would go a long way to reversing the mistakes of the past, to reversing sprawl, and making a better lifestyle accessible to more people.

There is too much red tape and it is far too easy for projects to get held up by resistant parties at the expense of the many. I urge the legislature to be aggressive in their effort to break down the barriers to new housing. It is urgently needed.