

**From:** Barry Kast  
**To:** [JWMNR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2007: amend the bill or vote no  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 21, 2017 4:14:08 PM

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To the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and means

As a member of the Board of the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association, and a former state executive in Human Services, I strongly oppose HB 2007 in its current form. I am totally committed to making housing more affordable in the Portland area and elsewhere in the state. As the Mental Health And Developmental Disabilities Services Division, my staff and I developed over 2,000 units of affordable housing with services enabling formerly institutionalized persons to live fulfilling lives in community settings.

HB 2007 will not further this goal. There are amendments proposed that would go far toward achieving the goals sought through state wide legislation, providing density where appropriate without despoiling venerable neighborhoods and creating the chaotic landscape of costly and non-conforming structures. In this respect I cannot improve on the messages already in your possession from Restore Oregon and from Scott Pratt, President of the LNA and a credible advocate for the simultaneous goals of sustainable growth, affordability in the housing market for both owners and renters and the conservation of both the natural and built environments. I commend those messages to you as you consider the merits and shortcomings of HB 2007.

And one more comment. Many unfortunate comments have been made about residents of eastside Portland neighborhoods such as Ladd's Addition, Irvington and Laurelhurst to the effect that they are elitist, privileged and opposed to any change whatsoever. Nothing could be further from the truth. These older neighborhoods already demonstrate a high degree of density. Most of my neighbors have been in their homes for decades, solid working people now in retirement. Overwhelmingly they have supported conservation of the ambiance and preservation of the historic design and architectural heritage of these neighborhoods. Many are willing to add ADUs or remodel into multi-family dwellings to increase residential opportunities on the dynamic eastside.

Please consider the various concerns expressed by those of us with long experience in Oregon who oppose the bill but not the goals, and have offered sensible amendments to make more likely the outcomes sought by the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barry S. Kast, MSW, LCSW  
3340 NE Peerless Place  
Portland, OR 97232  
[503-477-7469](tel:503-477-7469) home  
[541-760-2802](tel:541-760-2802) mobile  
[kastb@peak.org](mailto:kastb@peak.org)

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