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Subject: Testimony on HB 2007
Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 10:59:23 AM

Dear Esteemed Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

Please vote no on HB2007.

1. I live in a historic district and the houses are never demolished to provide affordable housing. They are demolished--and the neighborhood blighted--to build large, expensive houses or townhouses that do not fit the lot or the appearance of the neighborhood. Developers are taking advantage of what is a real need to provide affordable housing for their own gain. That is what this is all about.
2. Many historic houses are small and would normally be valued as starter homes but the property is valued at its potential as a building lot. Make it harder to demolish a small house and we will see more affordable housing and more diversity of owners in neighborhoods.
2. When a house is demolished, large quantities of lead and silicate are released into the environment and unlike painting your house which requires permits for environmental protections, a demolition does not require any environmental mitigation. The true cost of demolition is placed on the community and the health of people living nearby.
3. All historic neighborhoods in Oregon will be affected by a Portland problem. Please vote no on HB2007 or embrace the amendments proposed by Restore Oregon.

Thank you for your service and your attention to this matter,

Garry Stephenson
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