

June 21, 2017

Dear Co-Chairs Witt and Frederick, and Members of the Joint Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing today in opposition to House Bill 2007 for a number of reasons, several of which are highlighted below.

When I moved to Portland 40-years ago, my strongest impression of my new home was that I had relocated to a very special place unlike any other I had encountered in my travels. It was a city of many neighborhoods–villages actually–that had distinct personalities, localized economies, and appealing cultures. Over the decades, as I moved about the NE, SW, and SE quadrants of Portland, that impression held steady, causing me to conclude that our tapestry of neighborhoods and the identification of citizens thereto, are truly part of Portland's so-called 'secret sauce'.

Today, our City and its vaunted neighborhoods are under pressure on a number of "growth" fronts as Portland has been discovered as a destination city. Traffic and congestion, parking, homeless, housing costs, and eroding public services have taken center stage. Yet the flow of new residents continues, fueled by a hot economy and an esteemed quality of life. All the while housing grows tighter and the costs grow unbearable for many. So, I get the motivation for legislative response from Salem.

Yet, I abhor the requirements of HB 2007. It is nothing short of a monolithic statewide land grab that gives license to developers to engage in a **demolition derby** against perfectly healthy neighborhoods–all under the false guise of affordability. The Bill wrongly advocates the destruction of single family zones, which I suspect constituents across Oregon would fervently reject both in principle and practice. The Bill presumes that its dictates will somehow provide affordable housing by increasing supply, but I suspect this is as dubious as the proposition that highway lane enhancements will fix

traffic congestion when, in fact, they only enable more traffic. So, too, "affordable" housing. Good luck with that one ...

Lastly, I want you to know that I strongly oppose HB 2007 not only because it is heavy-handed policy, but because it is wrongly and unfairly being imposed surreptitiously on us Oregonians by the House Speaker and her sanctimonious sense of how we should live. Kudos to the Joint Natural Resources Committee for airing the Bill in the light of day. This is not good governance. This is not about how to best secure commonwealth. This is about one person's view of social justice and how to achieve it. Sorry, but its not for me.

Please preserve our neighborhoods,



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