

From: Jan Cassetta
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#)
Subject: We oppose HB2007
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Greetings:

We are writing to the committee about our concern over HB2007. Specifically we believe that this bill will have terrible implications for the preservation of historic resources in Oregon and especially in Historic Districts.

While we applaud an attempt to find affordable housing solutions this will not provide them in that it will encourage developers to tear down smaller affordable historic homes and replace them with expensive and unaffordable McMansions. An example of this occurred near our home in the Laurelhurst neighborhood of Portland. One half block away from our home there was a small older home which was purchased two years ago by a developer for \$601,000. It was torn down and the developer replaced it with two large out- of- scale houses, each of which sold for just under \$950,000 - hardly affordable! This was allowed because Laurelhurst is not yet an historic district. We hope to change that in the near future by applying for historic district designation so that we can preserve the more affordable smaller homes which are part of the original design heritage of the neighborhood. In a recent neighborhood association election and also in a neighborhood wide opinion survey on the subject, residents of Laurelhurst voted overwhelmingly to support historic district designation in order to protect the neighborhood from demolitions.

HB2007 would destroy the protection that an historic district provides since it would do away with design review and allow fast track demolitions. This is a greedy developers' dream and we find it hard to believe that the legislature would pass a law that would assist developers in destroying the historical character of Oregon's neighborhoods.

HB 2007 as it is currently written needs to be amended so that it would:

- leave protections for historic districts in place
- remove the prohibitions to design review in the proposed law
- add prohibitions to demolition of existing housing and limit fast track approvals to affordable housing only

We hope that you will consider these suggestions and help preserve the character of Oregon's older historic neighborhoods. Once that heritage is gone it is gone forever!

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