

From: Jim Henry
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#); [Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer](#)
Subject: HB 2007 input testimony
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Dear Joint Ways and Means Committee

I'm interested in hearing your strategy concerning HB 2007 to increase the quantity of low and moderate income housing for families in Oregon. I'm also frustrated the current demand for housing has increased housing prices dramatically, but I don't feel HB2007 creates the right environment for 'the cure', should one exist.

I understand thousands of people are homeless, including many children, every single night. Early in my architectural career I worked with Reach Community Development, Central City Concern and City of Portland on affordable housing projects, prostitution alternative housing, battered women's shelters and child care centers - most of which were done complicity with the city and 'under the radar' concerning zoning, public process, waived or minimized permit fees, and frankly with little or minimal upgrades to meet current codes or environmental regulations - ***we just needed to take care of people in need ASAP!*** And the problems still remain, and will likely always remain. The State's contribution to the current mess is reduction in social and mental health services, putting more people on the street

It doesn't mean we should stop trying, but putting the HB2007 'solution' in the hands of developers, house flippers, and home owners - most of whom put profit motives ahead of solving social ailments isn't going to provide the lower cost housing.

Again - **What's the HB2007 strategy?**

- Saturate the housing market until the housing bubble collapses? In the Portland area thousands of units have come on the market, and thousands more are under construction. The rental market is beginning to soften and stabilize. Interest rates are rising and having an impact, Check the dates on your data - it's probably 2-4 years old.
- Override decades of Land Use laws? **How much public money will be spent in court defending itself?**
- Speeding up the permit process will create more public sector labor costs, work will done by less qualified reviewers and inspectors, **shoddier work and designs will be built and around for 50 years**
- Putting the solution in the 'private sector' to save \$ - **you're not a trickle-down economists are you?**
- Create such an obviously bad Bill for the attention, just like Measure 97? - **Is that the game?**

Undoubtedly there are some income **side benefits for government coffers:**

- new permits lead to more permit fees, then reassessed values which can increase assessed value - A backdoor strategy?
- potentially increased income tax from construction labor?

Other options:

- **Address immigration / gentrification from other states with much higher** license, vehicle, voter registration, and other fees to pay for low income housing and infrastructure - like an SDC fee to live in the state. *With climate change and warmer temperatures throughout the country, and the ever growing political divide nationally, the Northwest will continue to attract higher income liberals and moderates - figure out a way to make them pay to live in such an awesome state - maybe spend some on our highly regarded (LOL) schools too. **No free rides!***
- **Stop Promoting Positive Oregon messages.** Take full media advantage of every shooting, crime,

poor schools, crumbling infrastructure, homeless refugee camps, etc. Housing prices will drop if we can market ourselves as a terrible place to live. It's worked for many Midwest and Southern states, it can work here too. FOX News has outlets around the world - hire them to do what they do best! They'd like nothing better than report on the demise of a Left Coast state.

- **File bankruptcy** to renegotiate PERS
- **Increase corporate taxes**
- **Wait for Trump and the GOP Congress** to finalize the transfer all wealth to the rich, then we'll all be homeless
- **Demand Oregon gets their fair share of the Federal taxes** our citizens pay - and not in that black hole of military spending, but in infrastructure off all kinds.

Homelessness and housing costs are directly related to conflicting situations; economic success, consumerism, warfare, exploitation of workers, strife, and/or population growth. This problem is global and HB2007 isn't going to solve it in our corner of the world.

There is a solution, however! We pay enough taxes, but:

1. **Our taxes go to too many levels of government (city, county, regional, state, federal) with duplicate services and departments**
2. **Our taxes exorbitantly fund military interventions around the world that directly destroy humanity and create additional problems.**

Solve these two tax wasting issues and everything else will follow.

YOU DO WANT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS, RIGHT?

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