

From: Jim Parker
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Bill Hamilton](#); [Kathleen Culligan](#); [Ed Sullivan](#)
Subject: HB 2007
Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 12:37:04 PM

Dear Representatives and Senators of the Oregon Legislature

I would like to register my disagreement with provisions of HB 2007 regarding historical districts. I believe in the city of Portland's goals of increased density and affordable housing and I strongly support land use planning that sets urban growth boundaries. I would favor HB 2007 if it could be proven that a ban on historical districts would provide affordable housing, increase urban density, and safeguard the urban growth boundary.

Neither goal of the city of Portland nor the urban growth boundary has been well served by new construction during the past ten years in Laurelhurst. In fact, the new housing provided by developers in this neighborhood is vastly more expensive, budes the needle on density not at all, and has proven irrelevant to the future of the urban growth boundary. The houses that have been demolished for new construction were, ironically, affordable and just as densely inhabited as their replacements.

What historical designation would do for Laurelhurst is to allow for some control of our neighborhood over its destiny as the city zones it for multiple family housing. It would put some brakes on the demolition of small and affordable houses and mandate designs for replacement housing that are compatible with our historical character. These are concerns to us residents because developers too often replace affordable housing with housing that is not only much more expensive but also degrades the historical character of the neighborhood.

HB 2007 would benefit no one – not the city with its goal of increased density, not those seeking affordable housing, not the state with its laudable goal of maintaining urban growth boundaries – no one, except developers, who are eager to take advantage of the attractiveness of our neighborhood to build incompatible and unattractive housing that they can sell with considerable profit to well-to-do buyers.

Sincerely yours,

James Parker
4327 N.E. Glisan Street
Portland, OR 97213
503-234-8587
culligank@comcast.net

