

From: Lynn Della
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 2007
Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 12:43:16 PM

Dear Legislators:

Please accept the following as testimony relating to HB 2007.

I first moved to the Willamette Valley in April 1953 and have lived all but 10 years of my life in Salem, Eugene or Portland. It is my home, and I fear for its future.

Oregon has long been home to people who enjoy its somewhat slower pace of life and its lack of density, and revel in its natural resources. Its towns and cities have been open, friendly and inviting places. Oregon has set a superb example for the nation in environmental protection and conservation efforts. Until recently.

As we have seen far too many times, good intentions do not (necessarily) make for good legislation. HB 2007 is a great example.

While intended to promote affordable housing, HB 2007 will actually incentivize demolition of existing affordable housing, strip away protections for historic districts, prohibit design review for new construction, and usurp local control over zoning and density.

As recommended by Restore Oregon and others, HB needs to be amended to:

- limit fast-track approvals to affordable housing only,
- add prohibitions to the demolition of existing housing,
- amend the building code to make it easier to do internal conversions of historic houses,
- remove prohibitions to design review, and
- leave protections for historic districts in place – they are not the problem and are too important to sacrifice.

We cannot (again) allow good intentions to degenerate into a bad outcome. Too much of the wonderful charm and character of Oregon cities (notably but certainly not only Portland) has already been lost, and opportunities to reverse the ugly course of destroying so much of what made Oregon desirable come rarely.

For these and other reasons I'm sure you're hearing from numerous other constituents, I urge you to adopt Restore Oregon's amendments to fix HB 2007.

Thank you.

(Ms.) Lynn Della
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