Dear Members,

I have written a letter to Speaker Kotek and the members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee to oppose HB 2007 as it is presently amended today. The amendments did not really address the problems. The comments I would make if I were to appear today would be those listed below. Hundreds of people who are just becoming aware of the bill are opposed to it.

No one I know opposes affordable housing but this bill does not create affordable housing from a practical point of view. No one I know opposes clear and objective standards for the builders to make their job more straightforward. But we do oppose the needed housing language, the application to historic districts and the unnecessary insertion of duplexes in single family housing streets on a state wide basis. Portland has over 100,000 vacant lots and is projected to absorb 123,000 new families in the next 20 years. With present housing and the development of those lots there is sufficient land and this is not an emergency.

Single family residential zones should not be transformed into multifamily by allowing duplexes everywhere. No one aspires to have a duplex as a neighbor. I think you might agree.

Please vote no on the bill and send it back for better writing and an affordable housing solution during the interim before the next Legislative session.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of my comments on this matter. I know you are quite busy right now.

Cordially,

Leslie Hammond Southwest Portland- Multnomah and Hayhurst neighborhoods. 503-504-1125 Brevity is the soul of wit