From: Scott Pratt
To: JWMNR Exhibits
Subject: My testimony in opposition to HB 2007
Date: Thursday, June 22, 2017 10:59:11 AM

Dear Natural Resources Subcommittee Members,

I oppose HB 2007. As written, this legislation is full of good intentions and bad unintended consequences. In a misguided attempt to increase affordable housing, HB 2007 would increase incentives to demolish existing affordable housing while eliminating historic district protections, prohibiting design review and usurping local control.

HB 2007 does not protect against the demolition of existing affordable homes, thereby giving developers a quick and easy route to less-affordable replacements. This bill eliminates design review for all housing types, not just affordable housing. It prohibits historic protections against demolition and incompatible infill.

This bill can be fixed. You don't have to sentence our less fortunate neighbors to live in ugly housing. You don't have to sacrifice the best elements from our past in order to increase affordability. You don't have to demolish our historic legacy to increase density.

Oregon is a special place. It's special because we protect the best of our history as we plan for a better future. It's special because we do not let short-term needs lead us into long-term injury. It's special because we foster citizen engagement in public decisions. It's special because we allow and encourage smart planning at the local level.

There are smart ways to avoid demolition of our existing affordable housing and to protect our historic housing while still encouraging new, attractive affordable housing. Please do not panic. Take smart action instead.

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