

February 13, 2019

To the members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing:

Thank you in advance for listening to my concerns about HB2001. While I support increased density and want housing to be more affordable, I do not think this bill will achieve those worthy goals.

Except in the case of ADUs, which are already allowed in Portland, middle housing built in a single family residential neighborhood means a house has to be torn down. In almost all cases, a smaller, less expensive house is removed and two much more expensive townhouses replace it. In my neighborhood a pretty little bungalow valued at \$443,000 was scraped last summer. The truly ugly townhouses that have been built in it's place are priced at \$800,000. How can it be a good idea to legislate doing this all over the state?

It is also environmentally irresponsible to tear down housing. I know that occasionally a house is carefully taken apart so as to preserve as much of the building material as possible, but it's much more common to see houses pulled down in a day by a backhoe, and then hauled off in giant dumpsters. We're supposed to take our own bags to the grocery store to protect the planet, but it's okay to waste an entire house?

I hope, as a committee, you will vote this bill down.

Again, thanks for listening.

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