

RE: Opposition to HB 2001

Although I take issue with the bill's usurpation of local land use authority by the state and its disregard for the importance of thoughtful and careful planning, Chair Keny-Guyer requested that testimony relate to -10 amendments and that is what I will address.

One amendment in particular worries me: "(7) An applicant proposing to develop middle housing, along with a local government that approves an application to develop middle housing, are each entitled to an award of attorney fees as the prevailing party, including as an intervening party, upon an appeal of the application to the Land Use Board of Appeals.

This provision appears to seek to deny residents and neighborhood associations the ability to contest land use decisions by imposing a burdensome cost on doing so. Using financial hardship to deter citizens from having a say in their own government's decisions is undemocratic and doesn't belong in this bill.

Thank you for your attention.

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