

To whom it may concern:

I am the owner of a home adjacent to a home located at 1198 SW 182nd Ave., Beaverton, OR 97003 that became a major public nuisance, and significantly degraded the quality of an entire working-class Oregon neighborhood over the course of nearly two years. The problems were subtle at first—an occasional random stranger stopping by the house in the middle of the night or at random times during the day, and then leaving shortly thereafter. Small heaps of garbage accumulating in the back yard. Then larger heaps. Then garbage in the front of the house. Then many strangers coming and going. Then a rat infestation and a stench that began to fill the air. While gradual and subtle, there was a tipping point where the entire feel of the neighborhood was changed for the worse. From there, the situation quickly began to spiral downward. Trash heaped in piles in the back yard multiple feet deep. The stench was that of a land fill or worse. The occupants of the house began literally dumping containers of urine out the window. A partially filled container of urine was thrown onto my property. The occupants began hooking up a hose to the outside water outlet of my house, and attempting to steal water multiple times. The windows of the house were broken or non-existent. The occupants began defecating openly in the back yard, since apparently the water utility bill went unpaid. Fights would commonly breakout among the squatters. Children in the neighborhood were taunted and threatened. Fewer people left their home or walked their dog because the neighborhood did not feel safe. Even with the frequent patrolling of the neighborhood by the Washington County Sheriff's Department, and frequent arrests of the nuisance home's occupants, the neighborhood still felt unsafe and unsanitary. This all occurred in an otherwise typical Oregon family-friendly neighborhood.

After lodging what seemed to be endless complaints with local and state authorities, Washington County took the initiative to do a major cleanup of the exterior of the home. They were unable, however, to do an interior cleaning because the house was still occupied by the squatters. This was a zombie-house—a house for which nobody would claim ownership or take responsibility. My personal calls to Wells Fargo were initially met with denials of ownership of the house. My personal calls to Fannie Mae were also initially met with denials of ownership. Given the drawn-out time line, it seemed that none of the involved parties wanted to remedy the situation. Finally, after extending our pleas to Representative Ken Helm's office, we noticed some movement on the part of those responsible for the house. Eventually, an eviction notice was granted by a judge, and posted to the house--I believe on November 16, 2018. After many months of horror, the situation was finally dealt with. It should never have taken as long as it did to abate the problems. I support HB 2982 because I don't want other Oregon neighborhoods to have to endure anything similar to what was endured during this dreadful situation.

Respectfully,

David A. Crowther