

From: [Mara Walker](#)
To: [JWMTR Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 2001
Date: Saturday, June 8, 2019 6:04:59 PM

I am writing to address the pending bill, HB 2001.

I have lived in Portland for 35 years and over the past approximately 10 years have joined with many of my friends and neighbors regarding the concern as to how our community is growing and the manner in which it is expanding. Portland has been a unique city as it has offered the best of all worlds. Culture, arts, cleanliness, friendly neighbors and communities. All of the positive features of a big city, yet it maintained its smaller community based feel. The neighborhoods unfortunately have lacked racial diversity, but there has always been social economic diversity, which hopefully would foster more cultural and racial diversity.

My family and many of our neighbors who live in one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Portland, know that as working people, we could never afford to buy a home in this neighborhood today. Losing smaller more modest homes will limit the type of neighbors who can share in a multi cultural social economic environment and isolate our children from diversity.

And of course there is the infrastructure and a clear lack of good planning as more and more density is allowed without supporting the growing population with adequate streets, sewers, water and electricity. It's like building a bigger house without supporting the foundation.

I understand there has been a housing shortage in Portland. I also agree that there has been underutilized space. I support development of the underutilized space, as long as the neighborhoods and density is carefully considered. I do NOT support the tearing down of perfectly good structures for greed's sake.

Don't be fooled by the rhetoric coming from the builders. I have been to meetings with some of the builders. I realize not all of them may be ill intended. Unfortunately for the most part, what I have observed are people who are not our neighbors, and are not invested in the betterment of our neighborhoods. They come from other cities, build the structures, make the money, and then leave. I have lived near communities that have overbuilt and have seen what that can do to a city.

Portland's economy for the most part has been stable and thriving. Portland has been a wonderful and special community. There was nothing broke, nothing needed fixing.

I speak to many many people everyday and not one, I emphasize not one has supported the current growth plan we see being implemented or the one being proposed.

I support a plan that would provide more assistance and access to grow diverse, and thriving neighborhoods. To properly utilize available space in Portland and other communities. This is NOT that plan.

Thank you,
Mara Steinberg Walker

Sent from my iPad