

**From:** [Aaron Brown](#)  
**To:** [JWMTR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Aaron Brown - Testimony in support of HB 2001  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 10:02:30 PM

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I submitted this testimony last week but it was before HB 2001 had received a hearing; I ask that the following comments please be submitted for the record.

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My name is Aaron Brown, and I am a tenant living in the St Johns neighborhood of North Portland. I'm writing you to voice my loud support for Speaker Kotek's House Bill 2001, which would legalize "missing middle" housing across the state of Oregon.

As a millennial, I spend an enormous amount of time deeply frustrated with the impacts our local housing shortage and our global climate crisis. I can't begin to articulate the enormous exhaustion I and my peers face trying to find places to rent, let alone scrapping together enough money for a down payment. I fully acknowledge I'm one of the few lucky ones that will be able to count on the assistance of intergenerational wealth when I get around to finally attempting to buy a house. Many Oregonians, especially those systemically disenfranchised due to decades of racist housing policies, will not be able to count on that assistance, and that will directly influence who my neighbors will be, whether we work to eradicate systemic segregation of our neighborhoods and schools, and whether the pathway to middle class stability that homeownership provides is afforded to a larger or smaller number of Oregonians.

I similarly can't begin to articulate the anxiety, the sleepless nights that come from recognizing we have eleven years to stave off the worst dystopian impacts of climate change. The fires, floods, droughts, and storms are only going to get worse - the existential crisis facing young Oregonians at the moment means I have honest, grim conversations with my friends about whether or not its moral to consider having children. Nothing short of using policy mechanisms to fundamentally reshape our communities to deeply decarbonize our daily way of life is needed at this moment, and anything that perpetuates the status quo is nothing short of intergenerational theft.

House Bill 2001 is the excellent sort of legislation that addresses each of these two interlinked problems. By instituting policy levers to demand municipalities allow the construction of denser housing in our urban cores, we are encouraging the development of a larger supply of housing in neighborhoods where Oregonians can walk, bike, and take transit. on transportation alone, the per capital energy usage in these dense neighborhoods are significantly reduced, to say nothing of reduced energy costs due to the inherent energy conservation from attached units. 40% of Oregon's carbon emissions come from transportation - shaping our existing communities to house more Oregonians in walkable, dense neighborhoods connected by robust transit is crucial, and it brings a myriad of public health benefits through cleaner air and increased physical activity.

These are also the neighborhoods into which a larger share of Oregonians are wishing to move. By increasing the number of units built in these desirable walkable neighborhoods, we are making more homes available for a larger number of Oregonians. These walkable

neighborhoods are great for senior citizens who can no longer drive, individuals who can't afford an automobile, starter homes for new families, and anyone else who is otherwise unable to afford the escalating housing costs not only in the Portland region but across the state.

I ask that you please support House Bill 2001 (and Speaker Kotek, as a constituent, thank you for your leadership on this bill!) and move this out to a vote. My generation simply cannot wait for action on climate and for action on housing affordability.

HB 2001 represents an opportunity to tackle both problems with one policy mechanism, and I ask that it move forward this legislative session. Thank you so much for your time.

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