

Submitter: Matt Wyckoff

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB2659

A new analysis for Sightline estimates that in the Portland suburbs alone, the rules stand to make about 37,000 potential new homes less expensive to develop—and therefore more likely to start construction without further increases in rents and sale prices. That alone is 20 percent of Kotek’s new homebuilding target for the Portland metro area, and 10 percent of her target for the entire state.

Meanwhile, though, a group of six state lawmakers, five of them from Kotek’s own Democratic Party, has introduced bills that would repeal the new rules, which also include many other provisions aimed at reducing climate-warming emissions and improving social equity. The group’s bills would also give a minority of affected jurisdictions veto power over future state rules to advance climate and equity goals. A group of 14 local jurisdictions is also pursuing a legal challenge in the courts, arguing that Oregon had no right to make the rules in the first place.

If these reforms were rolled back, it’d kill thousands of potential homes that would address the state’s worsening housing shortage.

<https://www.sightline.org/2023/02/02/with-flexibility-over-parking-oregon-homebuilders-get-to-work/>