

Submitter: Heather Kent
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

Hello Legislators,

Please stop this bill! Don't allow the current housing crisis to be used as a Trojan Horse exempting housing developers from land use planning regulations put in place to protect the health and livability of our communities and our environment. Nobody questions that we need thoughtful and effective strategies to address the current housing crisis, but HB 3414 represents neither - especially since it is too broad and could allow exemptions for developers regardless of whether they are building affordable housing or McMansions.

Under HB 3414, a housing developer could bypass regulations designed to protect trees, wetlands, and floodplains - all things also important to the livability and health of our communities not to mention the very elements that will best help communities with the deadly impacts of climate change. Developers could encroach on the Willamette River Greenway and environmental zones, and build in ways that completely disregard the impacts to their neighborhoods and neighbors. HB 3414 allows them to do this! We can, and must, do better. Please don't let this moment curtail the provisions that have enriched communities by protecting nature close to home.

Proposed amendments may address some of these impacts, but even in a best-case scenario, this bill will still result in a massive rollback of environmental protections that have been put in place over the past several decades and are needed - given the extreme weather and heat events in our urban areas - now more than ever.

Thank you,
Heather Kent
NE Portland