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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

We need to make extant housing affordable&we need public housing as the failures of the market have proven with the scattered, shattered lives of millions upon millions of Americans here in the US. There is so much empty housing serving as financial assets in investment portfolios of hedge fund&permanent capital cretins instead of as direly needed shelter for Americans. There are tens of thousands of vacant living quarters in Portland proper&still people are left to die on the streets. A large swath of the homeless population have jobs&still they cannot afford shelter in the world's richest country&in a city that's supposedly so courageously moral. It's disgusting.

These unnecessary anonymous office buildings&homogeneously hideous petrochemical yuppie kennel condos intentionally priced out of financial reach of the workforce aren't making housing more accessible by the developers of mediocrity(ever unhelpful and undesirable to the taxpayer residents) by "adding to supply" or affordability, but to the contrary&our collective detriment are directly causing housing to be more expensive&, of course, less attainable as they artificially inflate the market that then causes cost of living to skyrocket). Actual houses should be affordable for everyone as a societal standard with an economy that isn't allowed to rob people of it.

Supply&demand oversimplification is a false narrative frequently used as a disingenuous ploy of price gouging corporate slumlords&profiteering developers of blight who knock down our cherished structures&affordable housing stock to then exploit tenants mercilessly. Simply building more just isn't the answer whether the soft handed nut-jobs of unearned wealth that comprise the plutocracy like it or not.

We cannot outbuild the greed of rentier capitalism.

Allowing society to regress into another gilded age by allowing feudalism to exist in modern day America is pathetic and we need to evolve beyond an economy that cancerously consumes society. The entire city could be nothing but the tacky garbage housing being forced on us at infinite stories high&it'd still be unaffordable to most real people. Housing is supposed to shelter people, not exploitative profits. We need council housing and rent caps.

Housing, in a humane, sane society, is for people having homes; the manifest purpose of housing is not for plutocratic investment. It's errant&always socially destructive to allow societal necessities to be commodified&exploited as consumerist products.

Portland will continue to be Slumptown, poor&bland as long as our built environment is allowed to be duplitecture mediocrity built on behalf of, not the people of Portland, but the convenient expedient profits of economic parasites who have simply eaten away at our public wellbeing and society far too much, oftentimes ridiculously under the self serving auspices of "progress." Take a look around town and compare it to what Portland used to be like. How's that working out for anyone but the despicable gentrifiers?

I'd like to point out that the people of Portland have already spoken against these rapacious assaults on our city in a grassroots petition to close the pernicious loophole in 33.445.510.(B) of the zoning code in 2016. Why is Tina Kotek still trying to destroy our city? What does she have against pleasant places, social spaces&democracy?

To provide more housing we need to just take control of the chronically empty units already built. All we need to do is open doors to units gathering dust instead of continuing this classist war of community annihilation upon our neighborhoods to force more garbage on us which clearly ISN'T WORKING. Look around the country, it's never worked. Aren't we supposed to be the city that works? Instead of being beaten by corruption let's actually have vision&ideas as well as learn from peoples around the world that have successfully dealt with this problem instead of continuing to sell out&suck. Let's have pride!