

Submitter: Sharon Konopa
On Behalf Of: HB2138
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Dear House of Representatives and Senators,
Subject HB 2138 and SB 49-1:

Please enough is enough with this eroding away of our Oregon neighborhood's livability. I am so dismayed over these constant changes you have made to our beautiful Oregon. I have devoted almost 30 years of public service and always focusing on building a great community and supporting its livability for the people to enjoy. I was a city elected official as a councilor and mayor for 24 years and on city committees before and after my elected service.

The decisions you have made starting in 2017 has eroded away our community's livability. Give it up please with these feel good legislative bills that have done squat to get the homeless off the street or make housing more affordable. It isn't going to happen by increasing density, ADU's, elimination of zoning and parking, destroying historic districts or this middle housing push. You have been duped by the realtors and homebuilder's salesman pitch in thinking all of this will be a solution to housing and many of you just adore those campaign funds they wave in your face.

If you want residents to have the opportunity to buy a home with a yard for their children then you are making matters worse. Your policy decisions are increasing the values of single family homes with a yard, because buyers see the handwriting on the wall for these policy changes and want a home with a yard. You are also building unhealthy lifestyles for kids by sticking them on their screens, because you don't want residents to have a yard. Don't use the lame excuse, parents can take their kids to the park everyday! Ha! They have to work long hours to afford our state's cost of living. They do not have time to take them to a park everyday and mostly sit on a rain soaked swing and run on a muddy playground most of the year.

When you were a kid did you have a yard to play in? If so, then shame on you if you keep supporting these neighborhood changes.

You have some long-time legislators who have focused on great neighborhoods and Oregon's livability, like Sen. Prozanski and Rep. Nathanson. Please listen to them, as they have years of experience with land-use planning. They have seen loads of legislative bills and they understand the need for livable communities. Many of you are newbies and most likely were never involved at the city level to understand what each policy change over land use can do to a community.

Please vote NO NO NO to any bills this session that changes city land use planning and zoning.

As I have always stated to others for years, you can pave over this whole valley or Oregon with housing and you have no guarantee one dwelling will be affordable to lower incomes. It isn't city planning and zoning that is preventing affordable homes, it is the cost to build, land and interest rates. We don't need to change our neighborhoods just so more people can move to Oregon.

If you actually read my note here, thank you!

Sharon Konopa

Former Mayor of Albany