

As a resident of Northeast Portland, an area that has experienced an epidemic of demolitions in the years following the 2008 recession, I am opposed to this bill which will only encourage more demolitions of existing houses to build market-rate housing.

Many of the small houses demolished in Northeast Portland could have provided opportunities for single people, small families, retired people trying to downsize and other buyers. The demolition of Portland houses also removed rental homes in my neighborhood.

Instead these houses were bought by developers with fast cash offers, demolished and replaced by houses two to three times the size and price of the original home.

HB 2001 would lead to more demolitions to build market-rate housing, which in this part of Portland means luxury housing. This is true even in cases where the single family house was replaced with a multiplex. Within a mile of my house there are several recently constructed duplexes selling for over a million dollars for each unit!

More and more evidence from Portland and other cities shows upzoning, like that proposed in HB2001, only leads to replacement of lower-priced housing with more expensive housing, pricing out many lower and middle income members of our communities.

I urge you to consider the unintended consequences of this proposed bill. It will do nothing to provide affordable housing; it will only encourage demolitions.

Janet Baker, Northeast Portland