

To the House Committee on Human Services and Housing,

I am writing in support of HB2100 as a means to end exclusionary housing policies in the state of Oregon, combat climate change, and create more equitable, affordable, and sustainable cities.

Many of the most coveted and charming neighborhoods in my city, Portland, are neighborhoods with a wide variety of housing options. Buckman neighborhood is a prime example of a vibrant community where single-family homes are next-door to small apartment buildings which are next door to cottage-clusters which, in turn, are next to triplexes and so on.

For much of the city's history, these legal forms of housing provided a path for incremental growth in our neighborhoods. Renters weren't forced to live in apartment towers on corridors, they could find housing in fourplexes and courtyard apartments right on the same block and quite streets with folks who lived in owner-occupied single family homes.

But around 50 years ago, in Portland, we made a lot of those housing types illegal to build. Around the same time we, as a society, began to place a higher priority on making space to store cars than to house fellow human beings. It took some time to feel the impacts of banning apartments, but 50 years later we have a housing crisis in many cities compounded by an impending ecological disaster.

HB2100 won't solve all of our problems, but it will help. Allowing more dense housing in all neighborhoods will make space for newcomers to live closer to jobs and services, which cuts down on greenhouse gas emissions and on traffic violence. More housing options will make it easier for non-profits to build affordable housing, and more homes in general will help prevent rapid rent increases. Requiring wealthy neighborhoods to integrate more residents will combat wealth inequality and segregation in a state that is still abnormally homogenous.

Please, let us get on with solving our housing and environmental problems. Don't water down this bill, if anything, allow more housing options and prohibit any minimum parking requirements for residential uses.

Sincerely,
Tony Jordan
Portland, OR

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