

RE: Opposition to HB 2001

February 13, 2019

Dear Human Services and Housing Committee Members,

I have read HB 2001 several times and several pieces of testimony related to opposition of HB 2001. I am now writing as another concerned citizen to register my opposition to this unneeded and unwanted (by most “ordinary” citizens) piece of prospective legislation.

My primary concern is the role of the state government in legislating zoning and development for local areas. This is akin to the Federal Government meddling in state rights. I am of the opinion that decisions about what happens in local communities with respect to zoning and development should be determined by that specific local community. As you likely know Portland initiated the RIP (Residential Infill Project) over a year ago. It has been in various states of review/amendment and public comment since its inception. It is a topic that has met with a great deal of opposition and passion on both sides. It appears that the State’s injection into this issue is a means of settling the ongoing debate between neighborhood associations and those with development aspirations, thus eliminating further discourse.

In May of 2018 I submitted testimony to the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission. In that letter I outlined my primary concerns, which included but were not limited to: moving forward with the RIP without evidence that the Portland 2035 Comprehensive Plan will be honored; housing affordability (for residents – not developers) with the implementation of the RIP; moving forward without having additional/adequate infrastructure in place; Geotech assessment of the impact of added density; ADU’s as a means of affordable housing; public transportation; lack of parking, homeowner investment, etc. These concerns remain.

I am also confused and concerned that HB 2001 inappropriately declares an emergency passage is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health and safety. There is no evidence whatsoever that this is true.

I have been on the periphery with respect to the detailed examination and evaluation of the RIP and this current HB. However, I know there are other concerned and active citizens/neighborhood associations who have expertise in this issue and have devoted countless hours and resources to fairly and legitimately evaluate this issue. I'm asking that you take the time to listen to these citizens and reevaluate the need for this piece of legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

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