

Submitter: Justin Wood
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB2950
Topic:

Hello, I would like to submit testimony in opposition to HB2950. While there is a place for public participation and involvement in the planning process in our state, the challenge is that as we create more density in existing neighborhoods, there is more opposition or "nimby" perspectives on this type of development. For years people have been supportive of infill and density as long as it happened somewhere else. But now in light of HB 2001 and all of the progress our state has made on middle housing, we are seeing more opposition to the very type of development and density that we are supposed to champion.

As a builder who has made a career providing infill, entry level homes to generally first time home buyers, I can tell you that the level of pushback we are getting from neighborhoods is growing. I was honored to be appointed to serve on Governor Kotek's Housing Production Advisory Committee and it was very obvious to us on this committee that if our land use system is going to properly function, infill and redevelopment will have to play a major role in the type of housing we need. However if we continue to add more opportunities for neighborhoods and other activist groups to oppose development, then it will add to pressure to our outer growth areas outside of our existing cities and neighborhoods.

If we as a state want to support our land use system and we believe in infill and redevelopment, then we have to accept that there will be NIMBYS who do not want this type of development. It is a fine line to allow neighbors to share concerns but simply objecting because they do not want to see redevelopment in their neighborhood is not helpful to our goals. If this were to pass this would hurt housing production and affordability and I ask you to not support this bill.

Thank You,

Justin Wood
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