

Submitter: Jerome Gangle

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB2659

Jerome Gangle

Portland Resident

Testimony of Jerome Gangle

Against HB 2659

To chair Ken Helm, vice chairs Annessa Hartman and Mark Owens, and the members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water.

House Bill 2659 blatantly sacrifices the future of Oregon, for the present benefit of the few suburban land owners. The progress that the State of Oregon has made toward climate sustainability and housing affordability has set an example for many other states to follow. The repeal of parking mandates was a great step in the right direction, a step that HB 2659 would repeal. This bill would gut housing affordability and climate sustainability through imposing needless filibustering and regulation. If HB 2659 passes, municipalities working to preserve their cities for future generations will be stopped, in favor of asphalt, high rents, and extreme weather. House Bill 2659 It is predicated on a belief that our present ways of being are without flaws and can be sustained indefinitely. This belief is faulty, to say the least. We simply cannot afford, fiscally or environmentally to house our urbanizing population within suburbs. Rather than work towards a more sustainable model for Oregon cities, this HB 2659 seeks to go back to the very model of sprawling, traffic-inducing development that has proven itself time and time again to be irresponsible and exclusionary. The winds of change are blowing in the direction of sustainability and affordability. There is no just future if we continue to prioritize parking over people, or the needs of people in suburbs over the needs of people in cities. Climate change is a fact. Urbanization is a fact. To ignore these two things is to bury your head in the sand, at the detriment of everyone with eyes.

Finally, I urge you to think of whom this bill would affect most. Those facing increasing rent burdens, who will see the land set aside for housing be turned over to parking. The youth and future generations who will face heat waves, forest fires, and extreme weather with increasing frequency. If that is not enough, then I urge you to remember that those most vulnerable to forest fires are those suburban adjacent to forests.