

Submitter: Betsy Wosko

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HB3414

Dear Committee Members:

HB 3414 is an awful piece of proposed legislation and little more than a boondoggle for developers, realtors, and related industries. Increased housing is not synonymous with affordable housing. By liberally allowing variances, our natural and built environment will be at great risk. Trees would be cut down with more impunity than is already being done. As such, HB 3414 is contrary to the state and local comprehensive plans.

President Eisenhower, in 1961, warned of the dangers of governments getting too cozy with industry. Government and builders have too cozy a relationship at all levels of government, at the expense of our environment, and resulting in mismanagement at best, and obliteration at worse, of our precious and irreplaceable natural resources.

HB 3414 should be rejected and redrafted with safeguards in place to protect our environment and historic buildings, consistent with the comprehensive plans, state and local.

We should be prioritizing trees and our environment if for no other reason than our climate crises. HB 3414 is a fear-based, irrational, ill-advised proposed legislation. Developers and related industries, who want profits, and Republicans, who favor less regulation, must be salivating at the prospect of this passing, readying themselves for a feeding frenzy. They have hoodwinked Democrats into thinking they are doing something good.

Please reject HB 3414.

Betsy Wosko