

Rodger Eddy  
2582 NW Lovejoy Street  
Portland, Oregon 97210  
Phone (503) 223-3606  
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Planning and Sustainability Commission  
1900 SW Fourth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97201-5380

Dear Members:

Carol McCarthy's article in the Tribune today inspired me to comment to you with another objection to the trend of government in destroying Portland's livability and attraction to those who continue to swell its population.

Virtually unlimited building heights are destroying the pleasant scale of Portland's skyline that was once ruptured only by the monstrosity bank buildings. And yet the city council with a single exception is willing to denigrate Portland's tone-setting bridges with high rises.

No-parking garages, and unlimited height apartment buildings will add no charm, but will allow more "rats in the maze." To echo McCarthy, where exactly is the "sustainability" in the plans. (Giving developers the inside track, and providing subsidies to those who reduce the quality of Portland, are historic failures that are proliferating. Where is the effort with planning to reduce (and why not eliminate?) the homeless problem with an isolated and inconvenient shelter city rather than the city's obsession to keep the attendant repulsive problems in the inner city for some undefined convenience.

If the city really desires sustainability, why are not local jurisdictions not protesting the burgeoning legal and illegal immigrant problems dumped on us by federal fiat? Historically, small immigrant populations are assimilated, but now floods of immigrants challenge our very heritage.

As an 35 year old native Portlander and college graduate, I grant that Portland is an attractive destination and must accomodate growth. Please heed Tom McCall's prescient admonition for folks to visit Oregon. Let's not subsidize growth for tax base, nurture faddish alternative transportation and energy sources, and destroy our history by demolishing commercial and residential buildings for quick profit.

I am for free enterprise and a healthy economy, but cannot see how gruesome growth benefits us. Many European cities have preserved their attractiveness and density without sacrificing pleasant and controlled-height skylines. Our vital neighborhoods of Belmont, Mississippi, Broadway, Sandy have thrived because of their charm, and have preceded the resultant density by opportunistic developers. For my children and grandchildren, save the city.

Sincerely,

 Rodger Eddy