Dear Mr. Liburdy,

High density housing in Hood River (city and county) is irresponsible planning! Lets take a look at where we live. We're set in a beautiful valley full of visual appeal, community and recreational opportunities. Those who call the Hood River Valley home enjoy a wonderful quality of life. However, we live in a valley and a valley is similar to an island in that there is limited space. So, what happens when we use up this space for high density housing? We all lose. With increased traffic we lose the ability to safely and swiftly travel within our valley. With increased traffic we lose our air quality (especially in winter months). With increased parking on our streets covering what used to be bike lanes (and we have too few bike lanes as it is) we lose the ability to safely ride a bike on the streets. Our kids lose when their classrooms and schools are overcrowded. We all lose when school bond measures begin to fail because many of the high density homes are bought as second homes and these owners don't want their taxes going up. Don't believe me? Look at communities on the coast such as Seaside and Florence. Both communities have experienced school bonds failing due to the fact that part time residents don't have kids who go to school there. Why should they vote yes on a school bond? Higher density housing means a higher number of owners who live here part time and less community concern and involvement from these owners. We lose involved members of our community and leaders in our community. When we take out orchards to build houses, we lose land where our food is grown. When we cut down trees, we lose our forests. When we overpopulate our valley, we lose our quality of life!

Is there a need for this much new housing? I see that our projected population increase is in fact lower than anticipated. So why is there even a consideration for building high density housing?

Can our infrastructure handle this extreme growth? Where are the funds coming from for increased road maintenance, larger sewer treatment plant, building of new schools, additional calls for police and fire protection, medical services, new parks, parking lots, walking and bike paths?

Hood River County is the most expensive county in Oregon for housing. Adding high density housing in Hood River is no guarantee that these houses will be affordable. Especially in a market where houses go to the highest bidder. Assuring that affordable housing is available in Hood River should be addressed and remedied instead of looking for ways to destroy our quality of life in the Hood River Valley.

Thank you,

Margo Dameier

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