

EMERICK ARCHITECTS

HB 3414 OPPOSITION LETTER

**STATE OF OREGON
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES**

June 1st, 2023

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you to encourage an amendment to HB 3414 that maintains protections for our State's historic resources. Like other exceptions in the draft proposal related to statewide goal-related natural resources, our historic properties and districts are community assets that require our protection to preserve them for current and future generations. This support and protection are consistent with Statewide Land Use Goal 5.

Having practiced architecture in Oregon for 25 years and served for 8 years on the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission, I can testify firsthand to the value our historic assets bring to our communities. They connect us to our past and remind us that this place matters. In our historic districts, they contribute to a larger narrative, and when they stand alone, they are often major identity markers in the communities they serve. As a State and Nation, we have prioritized these assets through tax incentive programs and grants in recognition of all they bring to our communities. It therefore follows that these investments merit the highest level of protections to follow through on our shared commitments.

I currently serve on the Board at Restore Oregon, who has put forward suggestions about how these concerns can be addressed. I encourage you to review those, and work toward adoption language that strengthens this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Brian Emerick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BRIAN EMERICK, AIA
PRINCIPAL