

Submitter:

Corinne Kusmin

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3190

I support HB 3190 and urge your support. Please pass this bill.

I have a personal and deep love for historic buildings that goes back to when I was a kid. I have always taken photographs and documented old buildings around me, at home and on my travels. Several years ago I started an Instagram/Facebook page called, 'iloveoldbuildings' where I started sharing my photos, and I can tell you from experience, there are A LOT of people out there who also love old buildings. I have thousands of followers who express interest in the old places I share. It is always the greenest, and smartest, use of resources to preserve an older building with character than to tear it down and replace it with a soulless new building, or worse leave it as a parking lot, which sadly Portland is known to have done..... (the Portland Hotel and areas around Legacy Emanuel hospital being some of the most notorious, but also the historic house at the corner of NE 15th and Tillamook being an absolute tragedy with what it was replaced with)

In my opinion, older buildings bring a boost to the local economy by making the city more attractive because it is what people want. Why do you think people flock to Europe all the time? To visit the amazing old buildings they have preserved. Why do you think people love shopping on NW 23rd Ave here in Portland? Because it is quaint and human scaled and full of older, preserved buildings with thriving commercial businesses in them. We don't have old buildings on the scale of Europe, but we do have some cool older structures that are worth keeping around and we should definitely financially incentivize any builder/developer who expresses interest in preserving our historic architecture. There is more demand out there for it than people will vocalize, my experience with the online old building community will attest to that..... As a self proclaimed 'history geek', I know that people don't generally verbalize a love for history, but they do know what it feels like to be in a grand old building and understand that 'they don't build 'em like they used to' and that is worth something to them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Corinne Kusmin