

Submitter: Christine Thompson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Please remove Section 22(1)(f) from this bill: "Repealing requirements for demolition review for houses listed in the National Register of Historic Places."

The intent of HB 2138 is to create more middle housing in Oregon, which I generally support. Section 22(1)(f) has NO connection to the bill's goal.

Oregon has over 138 National Register Historic Districts and thousands of designated homes across our state. Removal of the demolition review process would greatly impact these historic places, potentially leading to unrestricted demolition. Historic designation requires rigorous research and vetting to prove cultural significance. These places should not be erased without careful consideration.

- The demolition review process has been shown to balance the public benefit and often has helped create more housing, not hinder it.
- Removing demolition review would essentially nullify Oregon's Land Use Goal 5 for historic resources. Is the only protection the state of Oregon provides for historic resources.
- Removing demolition review denies the public a voice (counter to Land Use Goal 1). The community or stakeholder group should have an opportunity to weigh in on places that matter to them and reflect their heritage.
- Demolition review does NOT equal automatic demolition denial. It is a weighing of the public benefit of retention vs replacement.
- Demolition works against the state's climate goals.

Thank you.