

Submitter: Karl Keefer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

I enthusiastically support House Bill 2138. This is one of the most important actions on the table right now to help Oregon thrive!

Individual historic *buildings* may sometimes warrant protection, but the vast majority of historic districts (and their contributing structures in particular) pretty clearly represent an abuse of power. It's unethical for a tiny number of residents to have the power to severely restrict the property rights of their neighbors. That's exactly what happens through these undemocratic "historic district" designations.

Just two of the downstream effects of these kinds of restrictions are economic stagnation, and skyrocketing housing costs. These are serious problems! This bill presents a special opportunity to make a major dent in addressing them.