

Submitter: Bradley Bondy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

I'm very enthusiastic that this bill will put limits on demolition restrictions in new historic districts. The way Oregon has set up historic districts makes the system ripe for abuse by anti-housing nimbys, and gives them an undemocratic means to block housing construction. At a time when housing production is by far the most important issue for Oregon, we absolutely must close this loophole.

Historic districts have been used already to blanket large swaths of cities in a "no new homes allowed here" blanket, including neighborhoods that are frankly not at all notable.

Historic protections should only extend to notable buildings that actually contribute to a city, not all building sthat happen to be in the same neighborhood. This is easily the most important part of this bill and it needs to stay in! If demolition restrictions remain in place then I fully expect massive proportions of cities to be blanketed in historic districts, making meeting our state's housing production goals impossible.