

Submitter: Kelley Hutchison

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

I am writing as both a homeowner in a historic district and a realtor for the Portland metro area, specifically the inner east side. I am well aware that many of my neighbors claim to be pro-housing but just not in their neighborhood. A fear of demolishing historic structures, that often does not happen, is used to prevent necessary middle housing from being built. I very much support any and all housing being built in the city, including my neighborhood. People are clamoring for housing. Just today, I called another agent on behalf of a client looking for a home in inner southeast Portland on 34th and Hawthorne. The home was essentially a one bedroom bungalow with a finished attic and a garage. The list price was \$599,000 and within three days it had seven offers and was going to sell closer to \$700,000 for what is essentially a one bedroom home. This is not sustainable. Middle housing makes it so when our children grow up, they can actually continue living near you. It makes it so that all of those amazing coffee shops and restaurants we love to live by can be staffed by our neighbors not folks who live 30 minutes away. We do not want to become San Francisco and have our service industry workers, teachers, police, and anyone making a middle class living to be pushed out of our city. That is not how we keep a thriving, economically diverse city.