

Submitter: Michael Rice

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Please remove Section 22(1)(f) from HB2138-1. The intent of HB 2138 is to create more middle housing in Oregon, which I generally support. As written, middle or affordable housing is not required as a condition for removing demolition review.

National Register districts often represent the collective cultural heritage of a community. Contributing structures are integral to understanding a district's social, economic, and architectural history. Retaining them allows future generations to appreciate and learn from the past.

Oregon has over 138 National Register Historic Districts and thousands of designated homes across our state. If retained, the section of the bill would greatly impact our historically significant places, potentially leading to unrestricted demolition. This new rule would eliminate the minimal protection of a process that is designed to review and balance the needs of local communities and their historic homes and places.

As Portland residents, we very much appreciate the diverse character and architecture of our many great neighborhoods. The reasonable requirement for demolition review of contributing buildings in Historic Districts must be upheld.

Thank you.