

Submitter: Evan West

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Please remove Section 22(1)(f) from this bill.

Demolition review does not necessarily prevent demolition or new construction. To the contrary, it is the only measure of protection that the State of Oregon provides to buildings and places that tell the stories of our history, and represent our culture and values. Even if every historic residential building in Oregon were demolished to make way for new construction, it would account for less than 1 percent of all of Oregon's housing stock. This would constitute an unnecessary assault on public history, and do nothing to further resolve our housing crisis.

Furthermore, removing demolition review will nullify Oregon's Land Use Goal Number 5. Demolition review provides an opportunity for the public voice to be heard, for citizens to express the needs of their specific communities. As written, Section 22(1)(f) has no requirement that middle housing or affordable housing replace the demolished historic structure. It has NO connection to the bill's goal. Lastly, renovation and rehabilitation is always more environmentally sound than demolition and new construction. Climate goals and historic preservation work hand in hand with the goal to achieve new housing.

Please oppose and remove Section 22(1)(f) as written.