

Submitter:

J Carr

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB974

I urge you to reject measures in Section 12 and 13 that would remove design review. These hearings give nearby residents opportunities to comment on large new buildings that could affect their local environments for decades to come. They also allow intelligent design commissioners to make suggestions about open space, setbacks and design materials that will improve the buildings and the immediate surroundings. The quality of our urban environment is important to residents now and for many

years to come. Speeding up the design process will not result in better buildings. I recall one design review meeting where developers of a large new building in the Old Town neighborhood placed the natural gas meter adjacent to the sidewalk. A design review commissioner who was an architect objected. "The job of the architect is to clean up messes," he said. The developer thereupon figured out a means of keeping the meter inside the building and out of the public right-of-way