

From: David Brownhill
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 2007
Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 8:25:59 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I support HB 2007, in particular the part that disconnects Oregon land use laws from the national historic district (NHD") listing. Connecting Oregon law to a NHD listing triggers an undemocratic result, which is unintended by the process for NHD listing.

Under federal law, the listing of a neighborhood as a NHD is intended to be honorary. It is not intended to restrict what homeowners may do with their houses. Consistent with this intended-to-be honorary listing, the process is not designed to require active consent of homeowners. Any single person or group may nominate a neighborhood for NHD listing. To prevent the listing, the burden shifts to a majority (50%+1) of the homeowners within the proposed NHD to sign notarized objection letters. In contrast, all homeowners who do not sign notarized objection letters are assumed to consent to the listing -- silence or inaction equals consent. Unfortunately, the listing of an Oregon neighborhood as a NHD does not end up being merely honorary. According to the National Park Service, Oregon appears to be the one and only state that by law piggybacks a NHD listing to restrict what homeowners in a NHD may do with their houses. In Oregon, any single neighbor or a small group of neighbors may use the NHD listing process to impose onerous restrictions on what all neighbors in the NHD may do with their houses without an opportunity to be heard at a meaningful time and in a meaningful manner.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Best Regards,

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