

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a long-term member of a historic landmarks advisory commission who works to preserve Oregon's heritage, I ask you to please vote against HB 2007.

HB 2007 eliminates discretionary design review, prohibits historic overlay zones that could affect density, denies historic protections against demolition, and will do nothing to assure any additional affordable housing will be brought to the market. With developers given the incredible amount of free reign seen in HB 2007, we are almost guaranteed that any moderately to modestly priced properties on the market will be quickly demolished in favor of pricey new builds. This doesn't solve- or even alleviate any portion of- the current housing crisis.

I believe HB 2007 could be so detrimental for our communities that it must be scrapped altogether.

If for some reason it must move forward, I would ask for the following changes:

- Limit fast-track approvals to ***affordable housing only***.
- Add prohibitions to the demolition of existing housing.
- Amend the building code to make it easier to do internal conversions of historic houses.
- Remove prohibitions to design review (review is critical! Once built, the house will stay irrespective of whether it fits the character of a neighborhood. "Measure" twice, build once.)
- Leave protections for historic districts in place – they are not the problem, and are too important to sacrifice.

Historic districts and historic buildings, homes included, are an important part of our state's antiquity. HB 2007's intentions are good- but the result will be awful. I implore you to vote against this bill. If for some reason you feel compelled to move it forward, please do what you can to make HB 2007 less destructive. The tangible history of our state depends upon it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jolene Thomson