

From: [Kristen Minor](#)
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: Internal conversion bill
Date: Saturday, March 2, 2019 11:25:54 AM

Dear State of Oregon Legislators,

I am writing to encourage you to pass legislation to reduce barriers to the internal conversion of existing buildings. This is an extremely pressing issue which will support affordability, livability, and sustainability.

I am the Chair of the Portland Landmarks Commission, but am writing solely on my own behalf. The preservation of existing buildings is of critical importance to me, but buildings that cannot change and adapt to new needs and uses will not- and perhaps should not, in some cases- be preserved.

If we cannot offer increased incentives to adaptive reuse, we will continue to see unnecessary demolitions. This “do nothing” course of action puts tons of materials with all of their embodied energy in a landfill; replaces older, more affordable structures with more expensive ones; and increases the likelihood of gentrification as older people move out of a neighborhood because there are no smaller places available to them.

Please support the preservation of older buildings, not just to appreciate them as records of our shared history, but for the very pressing reasons of sustainability and affordability.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Kristen Minor
Portland Historic Landmarks Commission Chair