

## Watts Remy

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**From:** Constance Beaumont <CONSTANCEBEAU@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 11:11 AM  
**To:** SENR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Please Support SB 927

Dear Senator Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources:

### PLEASE SUPPORT SB 927

I write to urge your **support for Senate Bill 927**, which would help restore protection for Oregon's historic resources.

SB 927 would repeal a poorly-conceived "owner-consent" law enacted in 1995 (ORS 197.772) that effectively killed protection for local historic resources throughout the state. In effect, the owner-consent law allows a single property owner to thwart the efforts of an entire community to preserve assets that contribute to the community's beauty, livability, and economic vitality. Oregon is the only state in the U.S. to have adopted such a regressive law, **making our state rank dead-last in the nation when it comes to protecting historic resources.**

The owner-consent law also undercuts [Goal 5 of Oregon's land-use law](#), which states in part:

*"Local governments **shall adopt programs that will protect** natural resources and conserve scenic, **historic**, and open space **resources for present and future generations**. These resources promote a healthy environment and natural landscape that contributes to Oregon's Livability."*

Property owners are not allowed to veto the protection of scenic or natural resources officially deemed to be of statewide significance; they should not be permitted to do so in the case of historic resources.

Besides contributing to the livability of cities and towns, historic resources also add to our state's economic vitality. As [Travel Oregon](#) has pointed out, tourism in Oregon is an \$11.8 billion industry that directly generates more than 112,000 jobs – and indirectly stimulates another 56,900 jobs. Cultural and heritage assets are [important factors](#) in attracting travelers to Oregon.

The value of historic resources to communities that rely in part on tourism to boost their economies was made clear years ago by Arthur Frommer, the internationally-recognized tourism expert who launched the widely-read Frommer Travel Guidebooks. As he observed:

*"Every study of travel motivations has shown that an interest in the achievements of the past is among the three major reasons why people travel. The other two are rest or recreation and the desire to view great natural sights...Among cities with no particular recreational appeal, those that have substantially preserved their past continue to enjoy tourism. Those that haven't receive no tourism at all. It is as simple as that... Tourism does not go to a city that has lost its soul."*

By establishing a public process for historic designations, SB 927 would give communities a voice in determining the fate of irreplaceable historic assets.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.  
Constance Beaumont

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