



**Bureau of Planning and Sustainability**  
Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

March 26, 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
900 Court Street NE, HR C  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 927

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports SB 927 as a measure to ensure the protection of historic resources is transparent, inclusive, equitable, and aligned with the other goals of Oregon's land use system. Portland has a long tradition of encouraging the protection, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of significant historic landmarks and districts. SB 927 will ensure that the public is engaged in the decision-making process as new landmarks and districts are considered for designation and protection.

The City of Portland has started a process to revise local land use regulations for the inventory, designation, and protection of historic resources. To date, more than 500 Portlanders have provided feedback and a consistent theme has been a desire to revise the designation process for new landmarks and districts. There is opposition to continued use of the National Register to convey automatic land use protections due to the lack of public participation in balancing different goals and interests during the listing process. Conversely, there is significant interest in establishing a menu of local designation and protection options in lieu of the current one-size-fits-all National Register program. However, the City's current authority to devise a local program to replace reliance on the National Register is limited.

SB 927 will provide Portland and other local governments with the flexibility to selectively designate and protect important historic resources, align historic preservation with land use best practices, and ensure the interested public is meaningfully engaged in historic preservation decisions. The legislation will allow the City to incorporate desired changes to local land use regulations to establish a better, more balanced local historic resources program.

The City of Portland respectfully urges your support for SB 927. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Zehnder  
Interim Director

---

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is committed to providing meaningful access. For accommodations, modifications, translation, interpretation or other services, please contact at 503-823-7700 or use City TTY 503-823-6868, or Oregon Relay Service 711.

Traducción o interpretación	Chuyển Ngữ hoặc Phiên Dịch	翻译或传译	Письменный или устный перевод	Traducere sau Interpretare
الترجمة التحريرية أو الشفهية	Письмовий або усний переклад	翻訳または通訳	Turjumida ama Fasiraadda	ການແປພາສາ ຫຼື ການອະທິບາຍ

503-823-7700 | [www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/71701](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/71701)



City of Portland, Oregon | Bureau of Planning and Sustainability | [www.portlandoregon.gov/bps](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps)  
1900 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 7100, Portland, OR 97201 | phone: 503-823-7700 | fax: 503-823-7800 | tty: 503-823-6868