

March 23, 2019

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chairman Dembrow and Committee Members:

Modern-day Milwaukie, situated in the historic homeland of the Clackamas band, is one of the oldest settled communities in Oregon, founded in 1847, and incorporated in 1903. Although many of the historic buildings from Milwaukie's first century are gone, some still stand alongside a range of potentially historic building stock, including some exceptional mid-century architecture. Many of these buildings are historically significant, and bear recognition, along with any significant archeological remains of pre-European settlement.

Oregon law is the most restrictive in the nation in terms of not providing for local control for the designation of cultural resources. However, SB 927, The Public Participation in Preservation Act, would bring Oregon law into the mainstream and allow cities to craft ordinances that would be more flexible and responsive to community interests. Milwaukie will soon be updating its 30-year-old historic resource inventory and reassessing its historic preservation regulations. SB 927 would enable the city to better evaluate and preserve its significant cultural resources. It is worth noting that restoring older buildings not only preserves important cultural resources, it often is the most sustainable alternative, so SB 927 provides a bridge to the future as well.

I am proud of Milwaukie's cultural heritage and urge you to pass SB 927 so that Milwaukie and all Oregon communities have better tools to preserve significant cultural resources. Please place this letter in the record for your March 26th hearing.

Sincerely,

/s/

Lisa M. Batey
Councilor

