

Submitter: Robert Galanakis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2984

Being able to convert commercial property to residential is vital for the preservation of our cities. Cities like Portland, with a heavily commercial downtown, have suffered, and will continue to suffer, due to the low proportion of residents. Empty streets and buildings are unsafe and unproductive streets. At the same time, we are facing a severe housing shortage, and we should pursue policies that encourage more housing. The State should remove regulations that prohibit or discourage increasing population in commercial areas. The market is better and worse at certain things; it has historically done a good job regulating the price of housing, when the influence of zoning and subsidies are taken away.

Providing more flexibility in commercial to residential conversions solves multiple problems at the same time: more productive land, better neighborhoods, more housing. I support HB 2984.