

Submitter: Silvie Andrews

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

I support this bill with one significant reservation: Section 22(1)(f) jeopardizes the few protections Oregon currently offers for historic homes by removing the public review process. Keeping public review as a requirement for demolishing historic homes would not be at odds with the bill's goal of constructing more middle housing. On the contrary, public review is crucial to ensure that neighbors retain an equal footing with developers in determining the future of housing in their communities. In addition, removing and replacing historic structures has a significantly larger carbon footprint than repurposing these structures.

Historic preservation is an important component of building equitable and affordable communities throughout Oregon. I strongly urge the House to reject any bill that would see more of our precious historic resources removed unnecessarily.