

Submitter:

Cassandra Strauss

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Please remove the section 22(1)(f) from HB2138-1 which, if enacted, would eliminate requirements for demolition review for houses listed as contributing structures in a Historic District which are not specifically listed themselves. I support broad expansion of affordable and middle housing, but the removal of this review will, over time, irreparably harm Oregon's historic built heritage for all future generations. This section does not require affordable or middle housing to be built on applicable property, and this section will likely not increase affordable or middle housing as it is written, but rather pave the way for more expensive new homes in desirable historic districts, at the expense of our shared history. Additionally, demolishing existing buildings usually has a higher environmental impact than renovation or addition, and this impacts all communities. Buildings and places that are demolished cannot be brought back.