

Submitter: Alice Knouff
On Behalf Of: Portland neighborhoods
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

We SUPPORT the bill's overall goal, but strongly OPPOSE Section 22(1)(f)—which threatens National Register Historic Districts like Laurelhurst without actually helping to create affordable housing.

Stripping safeguards that give Portland's existing historical homes a basic review process before demolition makes no sense. One of the very reasons new residents (and visitors) come to Portland is to enjoy the vibrant neighborhoods, which have been destroyed in many other cities. By maintaining preliminary reviews, demolitions replacing chunks of neighborhoods can instead be assessed and proceed in a well-planned way. Once gone, structures cannot be put back.

And are the demolitions actually creating more affordable housing? In so many cases, the answer is NO. It is more expensive housing replacing more affordable smaller homes. How does this further our goals of more housing that is people can afford? It is just another form of gentrification! We instead, we favor ADUs, and other forms of remodeling to accommodate more residents within neighborhoods.

Please remove Section 22(1)(f) from this bill and keep affordability along with architectural integrity and intelligent city planning alive in Oregon.