

Submitter: David Skilton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

My opposition to HB 2138-1 rests solely on the inclusion of Section 22 (1) (f). The current statewide requirement for demolition review on contributing resources in National Register Historic Districts is based on the correct understanding that historic districts rely on overall context for their significance. And it does not preclude demolition. Removing the requirement for review would unreasonably eliminate the community's opportunity to weigh the values of preservation and demolition against each other. Such a wholesale approach is unreasonable and would have the effect of weakening historic fabric in designated districts. In addition, Section 22 (1) (f) does nothing to add housing, affordable or otherwise, which appears to be the intent of the bill. I suggest you eliminate it.