

Submitter: Thea Parker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

HB 2138 is a bill supposedly aimed at increasing affordable housing. This is a laudable goal. However, I strongly oppose Section 22(1)(f)—which threatens National Register Historic Districts without actually advancing affordable housing.

The last time Portland passed increased density rules, in the name of increasing “affordable housing,” the people next door turned their garage into a 2 story house & now rent out both houses as AirBNBs! The result is a motel next door with zero increase in affordable housing for anyone.

Destroying Historic Districts in this manner does nothing to achieve the stated goals. It’s nothing but a bait & switch scheme; destroying our history for the profit of a few, not benefiting anyone in need of “affordable housing.”

You want “affordable housing?”

Enforce the laws already on the books. Demand that developers who take public funds promising Affordable Units to actually fulfill their obligation! That’s never happened in Portland. Make it illegal for Wall Street Acquisition firms to buy residential properties in Oregon.

Meanwhile, at least strike Section 22(1)(f) from HB 2138.

Thank you for your consideration.