

Submitter: Joan Petit

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

My name is Joan Petit, and I am a resident of the Eliot neighborhood in Portland. I am writing in support of HB 2138, including Section 22, because Oregon desperately needs more housing options for working families and people young and old. Let me use my own family as an example. I am a single mother of two young men, new adults who are starting careers as apprentices in unionized trades. My children are hardworking and regularly work overtime; just this week, my older son, an apprentice utility tree trimmer, worked from 7am to 5am, a 22-hour shift, following recent wind storms, cleaning up broken and fallen tree limbs to ensure power to businesses and homes. He also wants to be someday buy a condo or small home -- and he realized that he can't rent a place and also save up to buy, because so much of his income would go to rent. Meanwhile, I'm saving less for my own retirement, living in an older home that's more that I can keep up with on my own. I keep hearing about how we need more people in the trades, about how we need young people to pursue these great jobs, but housing is so expensive that these young people have to be subsidized by their families in order to live in Portland, and never mind the poorer young people who can't even afford to start these careers. I love my children, and I feel lucky that they still want to be around me after all those years we were stuck inside together while they were teens during the pandemic, but let's be honest about why they are still living at home: it's not my cooking.

Now, let's pretend, somehow, both of my kids moved out, and then I wanted to move out of our larger, 4-bedroom home, into a smaller home. Well, I have looked around, and there aren't many options! I just want a smaller place for me and my bikes, which doesn't seem too much ask, and yet that's nearly impossible to find. It would make so much more sense for my kids to be moving more into adulthood, on their own, and for me to be downsizing so a growing family could live in our larger home. Didn't we used to think that was normal? We need more homes, and HB 2138 helps us get there.

I particularly want to note my support of Section 22 as written. I understand that some of my wealthy neighbors in places like Irvington and Laurelhurst want to preserve their neighborhoods as is and push new development onto other neighborhoods with fewer resources--and they want to do this by removing or changing some of the language in Section 22. I see how Irvington's refusal to accept change has put even more development pressure on the neighborhoods all around it, like mine, just to the

west. Yet, both our neighborhoods are filled with beautiful older homes, and located near transit and bike routes and stores and schools. Just like Eliot, Irvington would be a fantastic place for more middle housing. All our neighborhoods need to be part of the change of welcoming more people in more kinds of homes; it's not fair or just to preserve wealthy, resource-rich neighborhoods in amber.

In short, please help me launch my children into the world, or at least out of my house, and move HB 2138 along with Section 22 intact.

Sincerely,

Joan Petit

Eliot, Portland