

Submitter: Beth Deitchman

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,

I write to support House Bill 2138 because it allows for more types of housing to be built in Portland and other cities across Oregon where our lack of sufficient housing perpetuates an ongoing crisis. HB 2138 addresses this crisis by reducing the barriers to new homes imposed by red tape, giving more people the chances to own homes and allowing people to remain in their neighborhoods. And it helps people live closer to their jobs, schools, stores, and parks, creating vibrant communities.

I also urge the committee to retain the language in section 22 (1) repealing the requirement for demolition review for undemocratic and landowner-controlled National Register Historic districts. Instead, I support city-designated historic and conservation districts because they are subject to democratic oversight by bodies like the city council and can consider the interests of renters and future residents rather than just those of current landowners.

This bill grants Oregon's cities more flexibility to solve the housing crisis leaving so many people out in the cold. We need to do what we can to erase any barriers to housing all Oregonians.

Many thanks,
Beth Deitchman