

Submitter: Beth Warner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

I do NOT oppose ALL of HB2138-1. I OPPOSE SECTION 22(1)(f).

Section 22(1)(f) removes demolition review for all contributing buildings in Oregon's Historic Districts. I am opposed to that. Demolition review is the ONLY protection offered to historic districts. Why would we do that? Demolition review does not equal automatic demolition denial. It weighs the public benefit of retention vs. replacement. It provides the community an opportunity to weigh in on places that matter to them and reflect their heritage. Section 22(1)(f) has absolutely no connection to the bill's goal to provide more affordable and middle housing.

Historic designation is a long and rigorous process. It should not be erased without very careful consideration. I am a resident of Eastmoreland. We went through a six-year process to become a historic district. The majority of homeowners in Eastmoreland supported historic district designation. Section 22(1)(f) gives the minority that opposed historic designation a victory. Is this fair? I think not.

Please carefully consider removing this section of HB 2138. We must preserve what is important to us. We must preserve our historic resources.