

Submitter: Kathy Phoutrides

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

I am writing in support of the letter sent by our Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association, after learning that our neighborhood would be affected by HB 2138, section 22 (1)(f), which proposes to repeal demolition review for homes listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The process of "demolition review" evaluates factors such as historic value, condition, and neighborhood impact to enable Portland to grow responsibly while maintaining its unique character.

While there may be a shortage of housing in Portland, we do not believe that crowding more houses into a neighborhood will be the best way to achieve this goal. We have already been able to increase the density in our neighborhood, by adding associated dwelling units (ADUs).

My spouse and I have lived in the Laurelhurst neighborhood of NE Portland for 40 years. We have raised all four of our children here, and have loved the beauty of our neighborhood. Historic neighborhoods highlight Portland's architectural heritage, with styles such as Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and English Cottage. These homes are irreplaceable cultural assets that strengthen Portland's reputation as a vibrant, distinctive city. Losing them to demolition would diminish the very character that makes Portland special.

Please remove this section of HB 2138, which would do irreparable harm to our historic neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Kathy Phoutrides