

Submitter: Richard Potestio

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Oregon does not need to demolish historic resources, houses, buildings or other structures to accommodate new housing. Rather historic structures demonstrate models of design and efficiency that are both instructive for contemporary projects but also add affordable housing to our housing stock and provide a sense of history and community.

Unfortunately Oregon's approach is like tossing out a room full of antiques to make way for new "IKEA" type furniture. The antiques connect to our ancestors and are of far higher value and integrity than the flat pack disposable furniture from a big box store. A person who values continuity, memory, and the material and labor efforts of predecessors will work to integrate the new with the old.

Had Portland preserved its Cast Iron Front buildings we would see today a vibrant district on par with the French Quarter, Greenwich Village or the Back Bay in terms of retail and hospitality business, boutique offices and tourism. But we tore them down and now have dismal parking lots and ugly infill buildings that attract no one. Lets not do to our residential neighborhoods what we did to our downtowns.

Richard Potestio