

Submitter: Eva Guggemos

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Imagine the neighborhoods of your hometowns. That might be Salem, Independence, Eugene, Albany, Astoria, Pendleton, Baker City, Newport -- or almost any town in our state.

Now imagine bulldozers razing a block of historic houses. Or a block of your downtown.

We have seen this before: It happened all over the country when urban renewal was at its height. Established neighborhoods with community connections, character, mature trees, and many other qualities were simply demolished to make way for "progress."

This usually happened to neighborhoods where the people had the least political power, like the Black community of North Portland. Who will it happen to this time? It could be your hometown! How will your voters feel when they see the oldest homes and buildings in YOUR community knocked down?

We all know housing is important, and I support building more housing in Oregon. But: HB 2138's removal of reviews for demolishing historic properties is a disaster. We need to build housing without just giving up all of our state's character, history and community built over more than a century of natural growth.

Please vote no. Please find other solutions that don't give a green light for developers to smash and loot our neighborhoods for short-term gain.

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