

Submitter: Jack Peasley-Lynch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,
Portland's vibrant neighborhoods are one of its greatest strengths, but a neighborhood's vitality is about far more than the age and historicity of its homes. As a relative newcomer to Portland, I have enjoyed many of its charms only because of the availability of housing appropriate to college students - small apartments. Unfortunately, like many others, I have little chance of staying in Portland in the long run because of the housing shortage. Without HB 2138 and the democratically-expressed desire for more middle housing expressed by Oregon's voters, I will be frozen out of Portland just as I was frozen out of my childhood home in San Francisco. Those who oppose HB 2138, and particularly provision 22(1)(f) preventing homeowners from using historical districts to keep out more affordable housing, are fighting for a future like San Francisco's present: a city where only those young people lucky enough to inherit homes can afford to live, and those low on the income spectrum are forced out. Vibrant neighborhoods are, at their core, about people. Middle housing is about allowing those who have lived in a place to continue to live there affordably, and allowing in newcomers without displacement. Without more housing production - and more middle housing - Portland will lose the diversity that makes its neighborhoods so vibrant. Please, support HB 2138, with the changes to 22(1)(f) that will allow Portland to stay vibrant.