

Submitter: Will Hollingsworth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Hello and thank you. My name is Will Hollingsworth, and I live in Portland. I'd like to start by highlighting a section of the National Historic District application for the Eastmoreland Neighborhood in Portland:

"Building restrictions within Eastmoreland included... \$3,000 to \$4,000 minimum building costs according to location within the addition. These restrictions were increased to \$5,000 for properties located near Reed College Place. By 1911, Eastmoreland contained the "highest building restriction of any residence addition to Portland." A 1914 deed details the restrictions imposed in Eastmoreland. For a 10-year period, for instance, liquor could not be manufactured or sold on site, and the property could not be turned into a "flat or apartment house, shop, saloon, hotel, livery stable, laundry factory, or other place of business nor be used for the carrying on of any trade or business whatsoever nor for any other than residence purposes." "Chinese, Japanese, and Negroes" were not allowed to own the property, detached dwellings costing \$3000 or less were prohibited."

Oregon has a shameful history of exclusion: of Black exclusion and of Chinese exclusion and of Japanese exclusion – of class exclusion and of redlining. Many Portland neighborhoods codified that exclusion in their founding covenants and cemented them in the literal brick and mortar of their homes. Section 22(1)(f) of this bill takes the absolutely necessary step of limiting the power of land owners to require demolition review for properties in their neighborhoods by abusing the anti-democratic National Historic District designation process. These reviews are costly and time intensive and serve only as a thin pretext to maintaining the aesthetics of racial and class segregation of days gone by. These reviews do not edify – they do not highlight past injustices and seek to remedy them. Rather, they attempt to maintain these neighborhoods as trophy cases - each home a shining medal for past segregation. I urge this committee to advance this bill, and to leave in place Section 22(1)(f).

Thank you.