

Submitter: Kate Walker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

My name is Kate Walker, I'm a Portland resident and I join Portland: Neighbors Welcome in supporting House Bill 2138. I've lived all across our country and also traveled abroad while I was serving in the military, and I've seen many different types of cities and neighborhoods. My favorite neighborhoods are older ones, like where I live in Southeast Portland: a neighborhood which was built in the 1920s and still retains much of that "streetcar suburb" charm. Suburbs built after the 1960s don't have that charm - and a lot of that has to do with housing density. My older neighborhood is filled with small lots, duplexes, townhouses, and small apartment buildings, and the result is a functional, walkable neighborhood with lots of small businesses. I don't need a car to meet my basic needs, and I spend most of my income within a mile of where I live. I want all Oregonians, especially older folks like myself, to have those same benefits. We need to allow our cities to grow and change, unencumbered by bad zoning and historic preservation efforts. Please pass this bill and enable more better neighborhoods for our cities.