



Strong Towns focuses on making fiscally strong communities that are self-sustaining, resilient, and nice to live in.

Together, we can make a difference in the place we love.

March 3, 2025

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

RE: Support for HB 2138

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Strong Towns PDX, I am writing to urge your support for HB 2138. This bill will remove critical barriers to housing of different types and scales and will improve housing opportunity and access for more Oregonians.

We urge you to retain the language in SECTION 22. (1), which repeals the requirement for demolition review for houses listed as "contributing" in National Register Historic Districts. If this language is retained, Oregon cities and towns will still be able to preserve their important historical resources. This does not impact local historic districts, but allows cities the flexibility they need to address our shortage of homes for Oregonians. All neighborhoods need to be included in the important policies being considered; there is no strong case for diminishing the impact of these policies.

We commend the state's strong work in promoting the production of middle housing and infill development statewide. A strong community needs abundant housing of all types and sizes, and this bill is an important step in increasing housing supply and enhancing affordability across Oregon. As we say at Strong Towns, **no neighborhood should be exempt from change, and no neighborhood should be subjected to radical change.** It's time to allow all Oregon communities to naturally grow and build the homes that we need.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Regards,

Jacob Dennie