

Submitter: Alex Bauman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

I strongly support the policy changes in HB 2138. America's unique global experiment in extreme low-density housing has failed, creating sprawling, dangerous cities where no one sees or knows their neighbors and everyone is forced into penury through car ownership. Oregon is experiencing the next phase of that failure, in which the reliance of affluent people in older generations on housing as an instrument of retirement is preventing all others from affording housing. The policies in this bill address this situation by removing barriers to building housing that have commonly been adopted by municipalities as a means of exclusion. Further, the policies in this bill are the missing link in the long tradition in Oregon of promoting compact communities and preserving open space outside of cities.