

Submitter: Katherine Showalter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB974

I oppose the elimination of Design Review as proposed in the SB974 –1 Amendment “Section 12 (5)” on page 10 and “Section 13 (5)” on page 11. The State of Oregon is destroying the livability of neighborhoods near me by permitting the construction of large, boxy, antisocial buildings built right up to the sidewalk, without any concession to the human need for places to gather, to chat, or simply enjoy the environment they live in. Attention to design (that is, building form, relating to context, durable and low-maintenance materials, energy efficiency, access to sun and light, etc.) are in fact critical ingredients in making buildings more cost efficient and affordable, long-lasting, and livable for ALL incomes. Well-designed neighborhoods increase neighborhood engagement and the physical and psychological health of residents; this amendment will have the opposite effect. I urge you to vote no.