

Submitter: Kristen Minor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB974

SB 974 seeks to eliminate Design Review for all housing projects, a position that I strongly oppose. Once we allow poor quality and poorly designed housing in Oregon's major cities, those projects will still be with us for 20, 40, 60 years into the future. Despite what contractors and developers might say, design review does not add significant cost or time to a project. Portland's design review has already been streamlined and does not even cover small development projects since 2021. Design review supports high-density projects and keeps those projects as affordable as possible, not requiring more expensive methods of construction or more expensive materials unless the materials proposed are not durable, such as T-1-11 siding. Design review in Portland supports development that builds on context, contributes to the public realm, and provides high quality and resilient buildings and public spaces. We need to continue peer-to-peer review as Portland's design review system allows, ensuring that we can continue making our city safer, more pedestrian-friendly, "open for business," and a tourist destination. Removing regulation for an "anything goes" in the built environment would be a huge and costly mistake, hampering our ability to continue to recover from the pandemic years. Please vote against this provision in the bill and support Oregon's legacy of taking care of our shared streetscapes and Main streets.