

Submitter: Peggy Moretti

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB974

As the Executive Director Emeritus of Restore Oregon and someone who has been involved with land use, housing, and livability issues for over 15 years, 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.

This heavy-handed and short-sighted mandate assumes cities are not capable of knowing how and where to utilize design review to achieve their housing goals and other aspects of their comprehensive plans. In Portland, where I work and am most familiar with, design review is used in very limited areas and within carefully considered parameters to retain livability and some degree of compatibility.

This isn't about "NIMBYism", its about respect. And as neighborhoods work to embrace much greater density, confidence that infill developments will be well-designed is one of the best ways to smooth concerns.

Good design matters - at all income levels - and need not be onerous. These new buildings will stand for 50-75 years. It would be great if they looked good and respected their neighbors.

Please show some trust that cities know how to use this tool appropriately.