

Submitter: Timothy Eddy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB974

My name is Timothy Eddy, a founder and president of Hennebery Eddy Architects, Inc. Our headquarters is in Portland, where we are ranked as the second largest architectural firm in the City. We also have offices in Bend and Bozeman, Montana.

I am in favor of streamlining the permit review process for urban housing in Oregon's cities, especially Portland and Bend, but not at the expense of the long-term thinking and planning associated with Design Review. The discretionary design review process is an effective means to assist developers and builders in producing high-quality housing serving their tenants and buyers while building high-quality urban neighborhoods that will attract residents for the next 50 to 100 years. The review process in Portland has been purposefully streamlined such that design review can now be processed simultaneously with building permit review providing a predictable process for investors. Design review in Portland only applies to a small area of the City where very large projects are built, doesn't apply to single-family or smaller projects in the vast majority of the City, and fully complies with State law with respect to its clear and objective standards.

The active vibrant streetscapes in Portland's urban housing neighborhoods have resulted from great care taken by the developers, builders, their architects, and the City's design review planners that guide them through designing for quality, permanence, and safe urban spaces. Please take this into account when considering the future of design review for housing Oregon's urban neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration,

Timothy R. Eddy FAIA