

Submitter: Constance Beaumont

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB974

I oppose the removal of design review for housing, as proposed by the SB 974 -1 Amendment, Section 12 (5) on page 10 and Section 13 (5) on page 11.

Both the state of Oregon and the city of Portland need to give more attention to the importance of pedestrian-friendly building design to our goal of reducing climate change and global warming.

An often overlooked way to reduce carbon-emitting car trips is to encourage (if not require) new development to be designed in pedestrian-friendly ways. It's been widely recognized that people are more willing to walk longer distances when buildings along our streets are well-designed and have interesting facades. Conversely, walking distances seem longer when buildings lining our streets are ugly or dull. When distances seem longer, people are less willing make trips in an environmentally-friendly way: by foot.

Another point: people are more willing to accept higher-density development when it is well-designed and compatible with its surroundings.

Design review has an important role to play in:

- making cities more pedestrian-friendly,
- reducing travel modes than contribute to climate change, and
- reducing opposition to higher-density development.

Please remove the amendment that would eliminate design review from SB 974.