

Submitter: Robert Miller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB974

I am writing to oppose the removal of Design Review as proposed in the SB074-1 Amendment Section 12 (5) and Section 13 (5)

Briefly: Design Review in Portland has undergone administrative and legislative overhaul in 2021. Design Review does not apply to small residential development. Design Review complies with State law. Design Review is NOT able to require a reduction or increase of floor area or height.

I have been a resident of Portland since 1992 when my wife and I moved here. It is patently obvious that a huge factor in the success of Portland and the State of Oregon itself, the immense popularity of this place to the kind of people who have moved here in the last 30 years who bring their entrepreneurial spirit, youth and resources is the comprehensive approach that the State has taken to planning the course of its development. The removal of Design Review would be a significant backwards step in the effort of the citizens of Oregon to ensure that we do not destroy the prime differentiator between us and a place like Las Vegas Nevada.

Further I believe that there are arguments being made in bad faith, specifically, that the removal of Design Review will ameliorate our current housing crisis. Design Review is not the reason affordable housing is not being built.