

Submitter: Nicole Possert  
On Behalf Of: Restore Oregon  
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB974

Restore Oregon supports the intent of the bill to reduce the review time for land use applications for single-family dwellings. We also support local design review as it provides all stakeholders the opportunity to comment about how their city looks and functions. Public participation in development review, particularly large-scale projects, is a bedrock component in the Oregon land use process (Statewide Planning Goal 1). Design review standards set forth in local city codes are similarly adopted through a public process. If a local government determines that these standards are too onerous or discretionary, the solution is to revise them through a local amendment procedure rather than by eliminating design review statewide. For this reason, Restore Oregon would like to see Section 12 (5) on page 10 and Section 13 (5) on page 11 of the -1 amendment deleted.

If this bill does move forward, we respectfully request some confirmation in the bill text or the legislative record that the “design review processes” referenced in Section 12 (5) on page 10 and Section 13 (5) on page 11 of the -1 amendment will have no effect on historic areas otherwise designated for protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we are available to discuss and be involved in the amendment process to find a path forward that address the intent of the bill.