

Submitter: Carol Grimwood

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Please accept this statement in opposition to HB 2138.

As a lifelong Oregonian coming of voting age during the legendary years of Tom McCall and the onset of thoughtful land use planning concepts, I watch in dismay at the systematic deconstruction of those landmark laws. Bills which voters have repeatedly kept in place at the polls are now rerouted through legislature to the effect of limiting citizen input in how our state and local communities grow.

HB 2138 minimizes and removes the ability for Oregonians to have a say in the planning of their neighborhoods and the individual character of the communities in which we live. Input is limited for neighborhood associations, notification parameters have been further reduced and appeals (only after decisions are made) effectively squelch public concerns and favor the developer interests.

The vague language contained in critical points of HB 2138, such as prohibiting local planning regulations that might discourage "through unreasonable costs or delay" to broadly permitted middle housing projects is of significant concern. Please define "unreasonable" and who determines when it occurs.

While increased housing options are needed in our cities, HB 2138 discounts the intentional investment residents have made in their communities and neighborhoods.

Thank for this opportunity,

Carol Grimwood