

Submitter: Rebecca Davies
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

To the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness:

I attended the public hearing on 3/3 to testify and am submitting written testimony since the hearing ended early. I strongly urge you to support HB 2138 and reinstate the provision that would enable middle housing to be built in historic districts.

My husband and I recently moved back to Portland after 10 years away building our education and job experience. If not for the middle housing built in the city in the past 10-15 years, we could not afford to return, despite growing our household income significantly in that time span. As renters, we still could be priced out if housing construction doesn't keep pace with demand.

Oregon is very far off track from meeting OHCS' stated need to build 500,000 homes in the next 20 years. Legislators should be doing everything they can to make middle housing viable in all neighborhoods, starting with HB 2138. Neighborhoods should not be allowed to opt out of housing production rules established by the state by obtaining a historic designation.