

Submitter: Constance Beaumont
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

Dear Members of the House Rules Committee

I urge you to reject HB 3414.

As written, HB 3414 would prevent Oregon cities from protecting one of their greatest assets – historic resources – while failing to guarantee the construction of affordable housing.

Fifty years ago, Oregon recognized the importance of historic resources when it included Goal 5 in the state's widely heralded land use law. That statute states, in part:

"GOAL 5: NATURAL RESOURCES, SCENIC AND HISTORIC AREAS, AND OPEN SPACES

To protect natural resources and conserve scenic and historic areas and open spaces. Local governments shall adopt programs that will protect natural resources and conserve scenic, historic, and open space resources for present and future generations. These resources promote a healthy environment and natural landscape that contributes to Oregon's livability."

While gutting the ability of local governments to protect historic resources, HB 3414 would encourage the demolition of natural resources embodied in existing homes.

Oregon badly needs more – and more affordable housing – but it shouldn't be necessary to destroy one community asset to create another. The state can (and should) develop legislation to encourage the provision of measurable amounts of pedestrian-friendly, affordable housing that minimizes demolition of existing resources. I therefore urge your committee to reject HB 3414 unless it is amended to allow for the preservation of historic resources (as with statewide goal-related natural resources, the Willamette River Greenway, and coastal zone protections).

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,
Constance Beaumont
Portland, Oregon