

Submitter: Steven Goehrig
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138
Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness, Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I live in the Alphabet District of Portland, and support HB 2138, which will legalize more housing across the state without expanding the borders of urban areas, thus avoiding the kind of suburban sprawl that we cannot afford to maintain from a fiscal perspective or from a climate perspective.

I would like to call special attention to my support of Section 22.1.f. Housing abundance in Oregon is being held up by onerous legal requirements, and undemocratic hyperlocal control over a scarce resource that affects everyone in the state. Oregon is a beautiful place that a lot of people want to move to. This is a blessing that other parts of the country, like the Rust Belt, do not have. We must welcome new neighbors fleeing the cultural fundamentalism of other states to each and every part of our cities.

And while historic preservation is absolutely of value, too often we fossilize our built environment while the next generation of Oregonians is shut out of the opportunity to live in the neighborhoods that they grew up in. I live in a beautiful historic district, but the best way to protect my neighborhood is to make sure the people living here can afford a home at every stage in life. Neighborhoods are made of people, not buildings.

Thank you for considering my comments.