

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

Please remove Section 22(1)(f) from HB2138-1. The intent of HB 2138 is to create more middle housing in Oregon, which I generally support. As written, middle or affordable housing is not required as a condition for removing demolition review.

Passage of this measure without review can lead to the destruction of Portland's African American historic properties and erase the history of displacement in Albina right after those properties were recognized as having value to the community.
<https://www.portland.gov/bps/planning/historic-resources/news/2020/7/9/portlands-african-american-historic-sites-honored>;
<https://www.portland.gov/bps/planning/historic-resources/african-american-historic-sites-initiative>. It could also lead to a similar erasure, destruction and devaluation of the contributions Portland's Asian American communities with demolition in Portland New Chinatown/Japantown Historic District.

Demolition of historic structures that are integral to understanding a district's social, economic, and architectural history without a review is reckless and unconscionable. It can add to the cultural erasure promoted by the Trump administration's attack on anything related to DEI. Continuing to require a review before demolition allows consideration of historic and cultural value and a determination of whether retaining the housing allows future generations to appreciate and learn from the past.