

Submitter: Janelle Schneider
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3414.

The impacts from by-right adjustments will be highly visible and will be felt in every neighborhood, in every community, and throughout the state and will not necessarily result in a greater quantity or more affordable housing. HB 3414 would not only nullify all of the detailed efforts in removing barriers to housing within historic, natural, and scenic protected areas, it would continue a well-established trend of displacement and gentrification of culturally diverse areas that deserve continued protection.

By-right adjustments as authorized in HB 3414 will not increase the overall supply of housing, housing affordability, nor increase housing choice – there is no requirement in the bill that the adjustment be tied to the production of additional housing that would otherwise be allowed.

Many design standards and criteria are culturally responsive and protect diverse and underrepresented histories from erasure from market-rate development. Archaeological resources require delicate attention, such as regulations governing avoidance of Native American sites.

Design standards for Main Street and downtown areas are necessary to ensure these special places remain walkable and economically thriving commercial cores of Oregon's communities. Preservationists throughout the state have worked collaboratively with local governments on sensible regulations and procedures that allow new residential development in historic areas. By-right adjustments will break the community trust of local government officials and staff undermining decades of collaboration. By-right adjustments undermine a clear and implementable land use system that already includes local variance and adjustment standards allowing for a relief valve when circumstances dictate.

HB 3414 kicks to the curb community, livability, equal access, and protections for historic, cultural and scenic protected areas and must not pass. Please oppose this bill.

Most Sincerely,

Janelle Schneider