

Submitter: Maya Hurst-Mayr

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HB3414

I oppose HB 3414 because it will result in lowered environmental safeguards, especially to urban trees, as developers could request an unlimited number of variances. Urban trees are incredibly valuable in terms of the cooling effects they provide, and can actually act as insulation to a building if nearby to it. Trees are beneficial to our air quality as well. Increased development in Portland without consideration for preserving trees is sentencing us to an even hotter urban heat island, not to mention the effects on areas that have been historically redlined. Areas with less green space to begin with will suffer more, and folks who are low income and BIPOC will bear the majority of the negative effects of increased heat. See Dr. Vivek Shandas' work from PSU on the heat wave incidents.

<https://www.suprlab.org/emerald-corridor.html>

Please consider finding ways to safeguard environmental protections and not let developers take away the urban tree canopy.