

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

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and members of the Committee,

My name is Victoria Via, and I live in the Northwest District of Portland, specifically the Alphabet Historic District. I support House Bill 2138, as it will have a positive impact on Oregon's housing shortage. I believe that it is important to allow more housing to be built within the land already available in Oregon cities and towns. This will create more vibrant, livable communities accessible to more Oregonians, without creating damaging sprawl.

As a resident within a historic district, I recognize the importance of our historic buildings. However, I strongly urge the committee to retain the language in SECTION 22. (1), which repeals the requirement for demolition review for houses which are listed as "contributing" in National Register Historic Districts. Undemocratic and landowner-controlled National Register of Historic Places districts are distinct from local historic districts that have democratic oversight from a body — the city council — that is legally allowed to consider any factors other than historic preservation, and can consider the interests of tenants as well as landowners. This bill retains Oregon cities' ability to preserve historical resources and does not impact local historic districts, but grants cities the flexibility they need to address our ongoing housing crisis and ensure that we can build housing for Oregonians of all ages, wages, and stages of life.

Thank you.