

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

To the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness:

I am writing in support of HB2138, as we need more flexible and diverse housing options to fit our individual needs throughout life. More specifically, I am writing in support of the language in section 22 (1) which would remove additional barriers to creating new housing in historic neighborhoods.

In our late 20s, my partner and I are still deciding whether to have children or not. A major factor is housing. Our apartment in Portland isn't big enough or close enough to family. In fact, there isn't anywhere in Oregon that we could afford to buy a family-sized home. My mother's home is in a historic district and we would love to build a matching ADU in her backyard and enjoy multigenerational living in her walkable, historic neighborhood, or have my grandparents live there to take care of them. But with all the barriers to building in a historic neighborhood it is daunting.

We need more housing in ALL neighborhoods in Portland, and in Oregon for that matter. No neighborhood should be able to lock new residents out through red tape and barriers just because the current residents are wealthy and have more resources and time.

We need housing for young families, elderly folks—everyone. And we need it in the same neighborhood their families live.