

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

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

My name is Emily Guise and I live in the Foster-Powell neighborhood of Portland. I join Portland: Neighbors Welcome in supporting House Bill 2138. As someone who is trying to buy a home, it's been hard to find one within my modest budget in the walkable neighborhoods I love. Although Portland has made strides forward with new infill development through the Residential Infill Project (RIP), there is still a severe housing shortage in Portland and the rest of Oregon. The committee can help change that by legalizing more housing across the state with land already available in our cities and towns and cutting red tape. I want to live near my job and continue my community garden volunteer work to invest in my neighborhood and city for the better.

I also specifically urge the committee to retain the language in SECTION 22. (1), which repeals the requirement for demolition review for 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, Emily Guise