

Submitter: Samantha Gordon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

To Whom It May Concern:

As a voting resident of the Portland metropolitan area and cultural resources professional working across the state, I strongly oppose House Bill 3414. The proposed bill disregards Oregon's history of strong valuation of environmental resources, a show of care for the present and future that sets us apart from neighboring states. Not only does it potentially harm vital resources that the state is required to manage and protect, but HB 3414's proposed by-rights adjustments also will not increase the overall supply of housing, housing affordability, or housing choice.

If that were the true concern, then the bill would require adjustments tied to increased affordable or high-density housing production. Instead, the bill sidesteps regulations ensuring responsible stewardship of natural and cultural resources, doing quite the opposite of the state's purported responsibility to maintain these resources for its people. The regulatory review currently in place is also a robust economic driver, creating hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs for highly-educated professionals whose role is to ensure that these resources are maintained for current and future generations of Oregonians. Additionally, bypassing local and state codes and regulations puts developers at risk of disturbing Indigenous cultural sites and the historically-significant places associated with marginalized communities often targeted for development and displacement.

I ask members of the House to support an existing job sector, their underserved constituents, and Oregon's identity and sense of place by opposing HB 3414.

Sincerely,
Samantha Gordon, M.S.