

Submitter: Andrea Haverkamp
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 Andrea Haverkamp.

I live in Senate District 21 in the Kerns neighborhood of Portland. I am deeply involved in Kerns Neighborhood Association, where I am on the board as the Land Use and Transportation chair. Housing is the most critical need for Oregonians and Portlanders in my district. We need to reduce barriers to building more homes, for all people, in our Kerns neighborhood and beyond.

I specifically want to 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. This is the most crucial piece of language to retain. 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.

Andrea Haverkamp, PhD