

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

Thank you for your attention. Please remove section 22(1) from HB2138. My community is in alignment with statewide decisions to accommodate middle housing. However, we view Albany's four historic districts much like the Willamette River or our city parks: resources to be maintained and for all to enjoy.

Our two historic residential areas can accept middle housing without the wholesale elimination of older homes. Please do not deny our town's historic experts in the decision making process. Albany's districts are seen as unique because they were, and are, living examples of the major architectural styles beginning with the very founding of Oregon. Taken together, they offer a fascinating glimpse into history.

Abigail Scott Duniway had a millinery business in downtown Albany and formed many of her ideas here. Come and see. Lewis & Clark College was founded in Albany and the original campus continues to be used for education. Come and see. If you've ever crossed a bridge named for Glenn Jackson into Vancouver, you've touched on Albany history. The home he grew up in is still standing and in use by a family and you can see it on Sixth Avenue. One of the two first senators in Oregon was Delazon Smith. He is buried in the community he represented most directly, Albany. Oh, and Oregon Governor Chamberlain's home stands tall and is carefully maintained.

Middle housing is important. But so is the preservation of historic neighborhoods. Please strike a balance as you make your decisions in favor of weaving the new into the old.

Thank you. Kim Sass
Albany resident (I DO NOT live in one of the two historic residential neighborhoods)