

Submitter: Chris Bonner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138
Chair Pam Marsh, Co-Chair Tom Anderson and Co-Chair Vikki Breese Iverson,

Thank you so much for working on this important issue. My name is Chris Bonner and I am a residential Real Estate agent and have served the Portland Metropolitan area for over 34 years. You can imagine the changes I have seen, both good and bad. The most devastating effect of the housing shortage that I have experienced is the reality that for most of my clients, their grown children, grandparents on fixed income and/or folks that serve their neighborhoods (teachers, etc) can not afford to live nearby. This loss of connection has a devastating and rippling effect, as we are losing the things that a neighborhood of diverse incomes and lived experience as well as intergenerational living provide.

I have heard that folks are concerned about the effect this bill could have on the historic districts. While I am a huge fan of vintage houses and the value they provide, the concept of middle housing is not in conflict with that, and we need to start thinking more about people and where they are going to live and not just preserving what we are used to. There are plenty of cities that have vibrant historic districts with various housing options available. This is not the time to be rigid about our thinking. In order to make this State a place where folks want to come and stay and work and play, we need to make it achievable for all income levels and all household sizes. Please support this critical bill in its entirety as it will take us one step towards this goal. Thank you for your time.