

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

My name is Rob Galanakis. I am our neighborhood school's PTA President, lead our Bike Bus, am on the board of my Neighborhood Association, and am a candidate for Portland School Board in May.

I am writing in support of HB2138.

Most of my advocacy is around improving the possible futures for our children. When I think of what would most benefit them, I am sure that making sure they have abundant housing they can afford, and more dense communities that are green and resilient to climate change, are more important than the wholesale preservation of single family home residential neighborhoods declared as "historic" districts.

There is also a more urgent need: our schools in Oregon, and Portland especially, are struggling with declining enrollment. The more barriers we can remove to increasing infill housing and density, the more likely we can grow our population of families, as well as our tax base, which are necessary for the ongoing viability of our school system.

I urge the committee to pass this bill for more housing tomorrow, and better possibilities for our children in the future.

Thank you,
Rob Galanakis