

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Thanks for hearing me out. I actually live in a newly designated historic district in Portland. I have been against my neighborhood being designated as an historic district from the beginning. The designation was a highly undemocratic decision and against the wishes of nearly half the neighborhood. There is really nothing special about most of the homes in my neighborhood. My home has been designated "historic" even though the facade was changed in the 1990s. It seems historic designation was a loophole for avoiding demolitions and architecture that is against the aesthetics of some neighbors.

I don't believe this kind of single family home neighborhood is good for our environment. There are constant, gas-powered lawn care tools being used and lots of watering for large, green lawns. There is room for multiple car households and access to public transportation was cut recently. I love my neighborhood and my neighbors, but I don't think I'd love it less with duplexes. In fact, as I get older & my kids move out, I would love to stay in my neighborhood, but there aren't smaller home options for elderly residents.

Our city & state has a priority need for affordable housing. I'd prefer equity in housing for our entire society. We all do better when those with the least do better!