



The Honorable Walter Blackman
Chairman, House Government Committee
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Chairman Blackman,

Subject: Support for HB2719 – Protecting Arizona’s Historic Districts

On behalf of the Willo Neighborhood Association, I **SUPPORT** the advancement of **HB2719** for consideration by the Arizona House. This bill is critical to preserving historic districts in Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma, Flagstaff and other Arizona cities with more than 75,000 residents, which are at risk due to the “Missing Middle” housing law (A.R.S. §9-462.13), passed as HB2721 in 2024.

Beginning in 2026, the “Missing Middle” law will allow townhomes, duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes on single-family lots within one mile of our major cities’ Central Business Districts—without regard for historic status. While we recognize the need for housing, this law fails to consider the impact on irreplaceable historic neighborhoods like the Willo Historic District- where nearly 1,000 homes are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Phoenix Historic Property Register. Our area is already the most densely populated in Phoenix.

Our residents have invested tremendous amounts of time and resources in preserving these homes, and the State of Arizona has contributed millions toward historic preservation. It would be counterproductive for these efforts to be undone, especially when the new developments permitted under the law would not provide affordable housing. Instead, the “Missing Middle” law would erode and erase our city’s unique history without solving the housing crisis. HB2719 would correct this by exempting Arizona’s historic districts from the “Missing Middle” law.

I appreciate your committee’s thoughtful evaluation of legislative proposals and urge you to prioritize HB2719. I welcome the opportunity to provide further information and look forward to your favorable consideration.

The Willo Neighborhood Association Board unanimously endorsed this letter on behalf of the residents of Willo.

Sincerely,

Brad Brauer, President
Willo Neighborhood Association

cc: Governor Katie Hobbs
Sen. Lela Alston
Rep. Aaron Marquez
Rep. Sarah Ligouri
Kate Gallego, Mayor of Phoenix
Jeff Barton, Phoenix City Manager
Laura Pastor, Councilwoman, Phoenix District 4

Encl. "Save Historic Willo" Petition