



February 16, 2018

Mayor and City Council  
City of Milwaukie  
10722 SE Main St.  
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Re: Milwaukie High School Historic Resource Deletion – HR-2017-002

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

Restore Oregon opposes the proposed removal of Milwaukie High School from the City of Milwaukie's list of Historic Resources. Furthermore, we strongly recommend against this landmark's demolition and urge the City of Milwaukie and the North Clackamas School District to seek alternatives which will enhance rather than detract from the community's architectural and historical heritage. We would further recommend that the city draft and implement additional protections within city ordinance for the preservation of this and other vulnerable historic places. We're ready to assist you in this endeavor to the extent we are able.

Restore Oregon is a statewide historic preservation non-profit representing thousands of local supporters working to protect and restore the historic places that make our state like no place else. For some time, we have worked to draw attention to the rapid loss of historic fabric throughout the greater Portland metropolitan area. Acceleration in the growth of the region's population has spurred a spike in the demolition of historic homes and structures and resulted in a loss of architectural character, a waste of quality building materials, and an irrevocably diminished historical record.

Constructed in 1925, Milwaukie High School has been a local landmark since it was built. Its architectural and cultural significance to the community was cemented with a visit by presidential candidate John F. Kennedy in 1960. The building's historic significance and its Art Deco architecture were recognized when it was listed as a Historic Resource by the City of Milwaukie. While it requires maintenance, and retrofitting to meet the needs of contemporary education, the school is no less significant today than when it was declared a city Historic Resource.

That the demolition of the Milwaukie High School is proposed and will likely be granted, despite its designation as a local Historic Resource, speaks to the shortcomings of city ordinance to protect these clearly vulnerable and precious places. Many jurisdictions across the state have carefully drafted and enacted policies which protect places that have been documented and recognized through local or national designation. The City of Milwaukie should consider updates to its own ordinances which strengthen the protections afforded to historic places.

Restore Oregon and its partners and members appreciate your consideration of our comments. While opposed to the demolition and Historic Resource deletion of Milwaukie High School, we would be happy to meet with you and your staff to better explain our interests in a revision to city code protecting historic places and our abilities to assist in this process. Milwaukie High School and every historic site within the City of Milwaukie deserve your attention and investment of your time. We trust you will agree.

Sincerely,

Dan Everhart

*Preservation Programs Representative*