

Dear Honorable Representatives Clem, Cameron, Frederick, Davis, Holvey, Thatcher, and Unger:

HB 2255 is yet another attempt to weaken the land use laws of Oregon. Cities, such as Salem, have too often and too readily converted land designated "Industrial" to other uses, particularly housing subdivisions or unneeded retail complexes, for example Keizer Station. Once the "conversion" takes place, the land does not get "reconverted" back to industrial use when the need for industrial land arises, even if the land sits unused for years. Salem still has several hundred acres of industrial zoned land in its Mill Creek development.

To allow the UGB to be breached for the supposed need for industrial land threatens the best farm land in the state, in Marion County the highest agricultural grossing area, and does not guarantee that actual industrial uses will occur on the "industrial" land. Before the UGB is expanded for any use, definite criteria should be established to justify that expansion, with priority to protect farm, forest and natural resources. An actual and real demand and need for such a use, including industrial, should be shown, as well as why that need can't be met within the existing UGB.

No one is ignoring the need for jobs and economic development. However, this bill is just a disingenuous attempt to expand Urban Growth Boundaries, and thwart Oregon's land use system.

Yours very truly,

Kasia Quillinan

David Engen