

Good Afternoon Chair Clem,

Please add this email to the record for HB 3098. I apologize that I will not be in attendance for today's hearing with the House Land Use Committee. As former Planning Director and Community Development Director for Jefferson County, HB 3098 is of particular interest to me.

Based on my experience on a variety of projects in Jefferson County, it's evident that Oregon's land use system just isn't a good fit for the county. In the past four years, the legislature has had to step in to create "work arounds" to the land use system. For instance, the Metolius Area of Critical State Concern was needed to protect the Metolius Basin. Further, a number of years ago I met with representatives from Young Life to discuss the Goal 8 statute and whether it allowed them to develop additional camp uses on site. We concluded that Goal 8 did not provide a clear path to entitlement for those uses. Perhaps these efforts are more symptoms of a system that doesn't work in this area versus the best solutions?

I do support the ability of Young Life to develop additional camp uses on their property as it is a legitimate use of marginal resource land.

However, I would encourage the committee to look deeper into the source of the problem. These types of bills are mere band-aids to a problem that is much more significant than Young Life's current struggles. Oregon's land use system needs additional flexibility as it routinely prohibits legitimate economic development activities that will not adversely impact the productive farm and forest uses it aims to protect.

Please support HB 3098 but in the process consider examining the source of the problems that have lead to routine legislative fixes needed to address an increasingly complex and stifling land use system.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Jon Skidmore  
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