



Chair Clem and Members of the House Committee on Rural Communities:

My name is Jeremy Rogers and I manage the Oregon Business Plan. The Oregon Business Plan is an effort by the state's leading business groups and business leaders to create jobs, raise incomes and reduce poverty throughout Oregon. **Keeping land that has been authorized for development by local governments, the regional government and the State Department of Land Conservation and Development tied up in court for years is in direct contravention to the goals of the Oregon Business Plan and undermines confidence in Oregon's land use system. That is why we support HB 4078 as written or amended to significantly speed up the timeframe for affirming UGB expansions.**

The Portland Metro area is the engine of the region's economy. Unfortunately, it is not firing on all cylinders because of litigation that is blocking the decisions of locally and regionally elected leaders to responsibly accommodate industrial and residential growth. While other parts of the state struggle with unconscionably high poverty and unemployment do in part to lack of opportunity, interest groups in the Metro area using the courts to block opportunities that are real, ready to go, and that the public has declared it wants through its elected leaders and through involvement in an extensive public process.

Blocking responsible development that has been voted on and approved by local leaders and DLCD after lengthy public process is not in the public interest. It is an attack on the public interest. Squandering responsible growth opportunities and public will threatens confidence in representative government, our statewide land use system and the region's ability to attract businesses and people.

In order to accommodate the responsible growth that the region and state need to create jobs, raise incomes and reduce poverty; to honor the process and decisions of locally and regionally elected leaders; and to maintain confidence in land use planning, we ask that you pass HB 4078 as written or amended to significantly speed up the timeframe for affirming UGB expansions.

Thank You.

Jeremy Rogers, Manager  
Oregon Business Plan