

Raszka Shelley

From: Jerry Ritter <jerry.ritter@ipaper.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 10:32 AM
To: Raszka Shelley
Cc: Rep Clem
Subject: HB 4128 Testimony from OCVA



Oregon Communities

For a Voice In Annexations

Promoting and Protecting Citizen Involvement in Land Use Issues

PO Box 1388, North Plains, OR 97133 • (541) 747-3144 • www.ocva.org

February 17, 2014

To: The Honorable Arnie Roblan, Chair
The Honorable Herman Baertschiger, Jr., Vice-Chair
And members of the Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development

Re: HB 4128

Dear Senators:

OCVA supports HB 4128 and urges a “Do Pass” recommendation.

As we interpret the proposal, its application would be limited to few annexations: those in our 31 member communities with “Voter Annexation” ordinances, only to “island annexations” under ORS 222.750 and only to targeted parcels of 100 acres or more.

Under current law in this situation, the votes of the city residents and those in the territory proposed for annexation are combined. As city populations will almost always dwarf those in the proposed areas, the latter vote is of little or no consequence. The result is that these residents have no effective voice in the decision.

In actual practice the impact of the proposed change would be further restricted to forced island annexations as we interpret the language. In annexation votes where the majority (double or triple) of residents in the proposed territories want to be annexed we believe there would be no change in the results under the current process.

OCVA has always supported “double majority” as the most fair method of guaranteeing citizens a meaningful voice in annexation decisions. Accordingly, we support the revisions to ORS 222.750 proposed by this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Jerry Ritter

Jerry J. Ritter
Secretary & Legislative Affairs Representative
OCVA
541-741-5723 office
541-968-8295 cell
secretary@ocva.org