



Community Development Department

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March 24, 2015

Representative Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water
900 Court St. NE, H-284
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 3282

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

The Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners supports HB 3282 as one optional avenue to improve the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) amendment process.

Specifically, this bill authorizes cities to request the Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to approve or remand sequential phases of work task(s) related to a potential UGB amendment. This means, for example, that a city could seek approval for its buildable lands inventory, opportunities (housing and economic) analysis, and estimated land need before performing work tasks to prepare a boundary analysis. Above all, this bill provides certainty for those cities wishing to receive State approval of their work tasks incrementally.

As you know, counties have a statutory coordination authority to collaborate with cities to amend their respective UGBs. Deschutes County has participated in four such efforts over the past decade, including the current City of Bend UGB amendment. Based on our experiences, we support efforts to streamline and simplify the UGB amendment process. This bill is one good step in that direction.

We urge your support of HB 3282 and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nick Lelack, AICP, Director

cc: Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners