



Community Development Department

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May 18, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 3282-A

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

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

Specifically, this bill clarifies existing law that cities with UGB remands can use a customized periodic review for the limited purpose of addressing only the unresolved elements of the remand. This is in contrast to current practice which requires cities to resubmit the entire proposal, which can be remanded in its entirety, and comes at significant time and expense.

HB 3282-A also allows for the sequential approval of different work tasks such as buildable lands inventories, opportunity analyses, and land need estimates, before a city prepares a boundary analysis. Sequential approval provides some certainty for cities as they progress through the process. Any issues that may be the subject of a remand, for example on a buildable lands inventory, can be addressed before proceeding to the next task.

As you know, counties are required by law 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 a good step in that direction.

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

Sincerely,

Nick Lelack, AICP, Planning Director

cc: Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners