



# City of Canby

Office of the City Administrator

June 3, 2015

Senate Business and Transportation Committee  
Chair Lee Beyer  
Senator Rod Monroe  
Senator Chuck Riley  
Senator Chuck Thomsen  
Senator Fred Girod

RE: HB 2938 Proposed Amendment - Oppose

The City of Canby is adamantly opposed to the proposed amendment to HB 2938. Many communities within Oregon have a rich history and tradition of including the residents of the communities who would be most affected by an expansion of the City's boundaries to exercise their voting rights in expressing their support or opposition to annexations. HB 2938 would eliminate this home rule provision from City Charters and would create an environment in Oregon, not unlike our neighboring states to the north and south, in which land speculators and developers would have the final say in the timing and appropriateness of annexations.

The proposed amendment to HB 2938 could result in higher property vacancy rates and the devaluation of existing properties. As we have seen in countless examples during the recent recession, states that have embraced the type of annexation criteria that the amendments to HB 2938 would encourage have suffered the highest residential vacancy rates and the greatest devaluation in property. While Canby's property values are rapidly recovering, many jurisdictions who expanded beyond the current needs of the community continue to see residential properties whose values are significantly below their original purchase price.

The proposed amendments to HB 2938 would contribute to urban sprawl and could result in the creation of County islands within City boundaries. Canby enjoys some of the highest density development in the State, to a large degree because proposed annexations must be well thought out and well planned to pass the scrutiny of voters in the area. The Willamette Valley has some of the most fertile soil in the country, and the manner in which Canby continues to expand into its urban growth boundaries will directly affect the ability of agriculture to use this fertile soil in agricultural endeavors.

Land use decisions that will affect the quality of life of local residents should not exclude those very people most affected by those decisions. The City of Canby urges the Committee to support local home rule, and reject the proposed amendment to HB 2938.

Respectfully,

Richard Robinson  
City Administrator

CC: Erin Doyle, League of Oregon Cities  
James LaBar, Committee Administrator  
Jessica Wangler, Committee Assistant