



January 28, 2016

House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 4126

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee;

After six years of intensive work, Eugene is nearing the end of its urban growth boundary (UGB) location work, with a proposed UGB expansion to meet Eugene's need for employment land, parks and a school. Eugene has worked closely with staff from the Department of Land Conservation and Development to carefully address the complicated requirements of the UGB laws in effect when our study began. Eugene officials, staff, citizens, stakeholder representatives and consultants have dedicated a countless number of hours to ensure that Eugene's work addresses the myriad of complex rules for establishing Eugene's UGB set out by state law, and further interpreted by case law. Eugene's work was originally expected to be completed before the end of 2015; however, unexpected delays have pushed Eugene's UGB formal adoption schedule to commence in 2016.

In 2013, the legislature adopted HB 2254 which significantly changes the UGB evaluation process. The statute became operative on January 1, 2016. Unfortunately, HB 2254 did not provide explicit authority to allow cities currently in-progress of a UGB evaluation to finish their work under the law and rules in place when they started. If Eugene's current work is required to comply with the new law and rules, Eugene would be required to re-do its UGB location work. This would cause substantial delays, financial obstacles, and confusion to the community members who have engaged in many years of local process. For Eugene, the investment is hundreds of thousands of dollars and many hundred hours of staff and community member-volunteer time.

To avoid such a scenario for Eugene, and the other in-progress cities, HB 4126 clarifies that cities that started the UGB analysis process before the new laws became operative can opt to finish their work under the old law. As the legislation has been drafted, only cities that provided notice to the department prior to the date that the law became operative (January 1, 2016) may use this option. The City of Eugene supports this simple yet crucial solution that enables us to finish what we started.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Hostick", is written over a horizontal line.

Robin Hostick  
Planning Director