



February 1, 2016

Representative Brian Clem, Chair, and Members  
House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water

Dear Chair Clem and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Lane County urges your support of HB 4126, allowing cities outside Metro who have begun reviewing their urban growth boundaries before January 1, 2016, but did not complete the evaluation or adoption by that date. HB 4126 allows such cities to use statutes and rules in effect on July 30, 2013, rather than those enacted or adopted after that date.

Our organization has followed the multi-year comprehensive processes of the City of Eugene and the City of Springfield to plan for expected growth in the next 20 years and to determine if the city's urban growth boundaries must be expanded to accommodate that growth. Both city's efforts, which are nearing completion, have included robust technical analysis and opportunities for public involvement. The League has submitted testimony eight times since 2011 on various aspects of Envision Eugene. We have attended numerous meetings and studied many reports about elements of the Springfield 2030 Plan and expect to testify during the adoption process in 2016.

It is essential that both cities be allowed to finish their planning work using the laws and regulations in effect before June 30, 2013 not those adopted after that date. A change in requirements at this time would surely necessitate additional time, effort, and expenditures and create confusion. A city's comprehensive land use plan is the underlying support for the city's approach to housing, parks, livability, economic development, transportation, and neighborhood planning. Thus the timely adoption of an updated plan with an appropriate urban growth boundary is important to the entire community. We support their request to clarify these requirements so that work on many other plans and projects can proceed.

We urge you to approve HB 4126 to prevent unnecessary delays due to amended requirements for cities already engaged in reviewing urban growth boundaries. Thank you for considering our position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Lynch, President