



CITY OF BEND

January 29, 2016

House Committee on Rural Communities Land Use and Water
Representative Brian Clem, Chair
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony from the City of Bend on HB 4126 and UGB Streamlining

Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

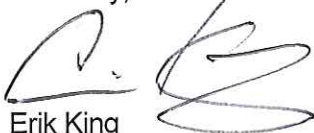
The City of Bend provides this testimony in support of HB 4126. The purpose of this bill is to ensure that cities such as Bend that are already engaged in urban growth boundary (UGB) expansion processes can do so under rules in effect when they began this work.

In December of last year, the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) adopted new administrative rules to streamline the UGB amendment process as directed by 2013's HB 2254. The rules are based on the work of the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and a rulemaking advisory committee (RAC) which worked collaboratively for over two years.

The new rules included amendments to existing language in OAR Chapter 660, Division 24 allowing communities already in process to complete their existing UGB projects under the rules in effect when they began their work. Despite this being the clear intent of HB 2254, DLCD and the RAC members determined that the specific language of HB 2254 needed to be clarified to erase any potential doubt and provide an important safeguard for cities.

HB 4126 would accomplish this important goal and allow Bend and several other cities to confidently continue with our existing UGB expansion processes. Thank you for your time and consideration. We urge your strong support for HB 4126.

Sincerely,



Erik King
City Manager

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