

To Whom it may concern,

This bill attempts to take away the rights of our citizens to decide how and when their cities develop and grow. The city of Rogue River has voter-approved annexation, not because they don't want growth but because they want a say in how that growth occurs. This should be a fundamental right of our citizens. A voter-approved annexation policy creates a sense of community, democracy, and public input and forces developers to cater their proposals to what will be best for the city, thus promoting smart growth.

It is my belief that large developers that push to remove this right do so because they are only interested in "the bottom line" and could care less about the impact to the community. As a Realtor, I have worked with some very good developers and I have also seen the disastrous results of poorly planned growth and annexations that leave the local citizens coping with failing infrastructure (water and waste water treatment) and traffic congestion that becomes a tax burden to mitigate.

Sincerely,

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