



Oregon

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TO: The Honorable Senator Diane Rosenbaum, Chair
Senate Committee on Rules

FROM: Jim Rue, Director
Department of Land Conservation and Development

RE: HB 4126

The Department of Land Conservation and Development urges your support for HB 4126. The Land Conservation and Development Commission recently adopted implementing rules for legislation passed unanimously in 2013 (HB 2254) to create an optional simplified urban growth boundary (UGB) evaluation and amendment method for cities outside the Portland metro region, as well as make improvements to the traditional UGB process for those cities. The optional simplified UGB method will reduce complexity, costs, and time for cities, and the amendments to the traditional UGB method clarify the evaluation of land for UGB expansion areas. These implementing rules became effective January 1, 2016, as called for in the authorizing legislation.

The bill before you today, HB 4126, makes clear that if a city initiated, but did not complete, a UGB evaluation and amendment process prior to the effective date of the new rules, it may choose whether to complete its work under the old UGB rules or the new UGB rules. This is consistent with a grandfathering provision included in the newly adopted rules. HB 4126 will, however, eliminate any potential legal ambiguity cities might encounter in this regard, allowing them to focus on planning for the future of their communities.

Thank you for your consideration. If committee members have questions about this testimony, please contact Dan Eisenbeis, Urban Policy Analyst/Legislative Coordinator, at 503-934-0020 or dan.eisenbeis@state.or.us.

Copy: Richard Whitman, Governor's Office
Greg Macpherson, LCDC Chair