

April 6, 2017

Testimony of
Robert Bailey, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
On House Bill 2222, Relating to Regional Land Use Planning
Before the
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Chairman Clem, Vice-chairs McLain and Sprenger, and Committee Members:

Good morning. My name is Robert Bailey. As a board member of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, I am representing the organization.

Oregon Shores is opposed to HB 2222. Over the past 40 years, Oregon Shores participated in many land use planning issues along the Oregon Coast. We appreciate that there may be some seductive concepts about regional land use planning but this bill is unnecessary, dangerous and expensive.

It is unnecessary because Oregon's land use program already allows wide leeway to account for local and regional conditions. We know that because we can see on the coast where the statewide planning program already uses a regional approach when necessary to assist local governments, state agencies, and landowners to address transportation, flooding, economic development and other issues.

It is dangerous because it would dismantle more than 40 years of land use planning that, although not without controversy, has protected our best agricultural lands and forest lands, minimized urban sprawl and rural residential creep. It has protected our coastal beaches and estuaries from Astoria to Brookings. All of this while Oregon has nearly doubled its population. Balkanizing Oregon's land use program is a road to no land use planning in our view.

In addition, this bill would result in an expensive wild-goose chase. This concept has been floated before, always to crash on the rocks of reality that regional planning is no substitute for a statewide program. And the Department of Land Conservation and Development would need substantial funding to support the proposed study, funding that would be better spent by assisting local governments to meet real needs.

We urge you to vote NO on HB 2222.