



**ORCA: Oregon Coast Alliance**  
***Protecting the Oregon Coast***

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May 12, 2017

Oregon Legislature  
Oregon State Capitol  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2031A, Metolius Resort Election

Via email: [senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Coast Alliance (ORCA) is an Oregon nonprofit whose mission is to protect coastal natural resources and aid in community livability. We write you today concerning HB 2031A, the bill to grant further consideration to the developer of a Metolius Resort.

ORCA **opposes** HB 2031A. This bill extends yet again the deadline for election options for the owner of a Metolius resort site to build a recreation community. The final extension was supposed to be in 2015, when new legislation granted the developer until 2018. Now HB 2031A proposes to extend the deadline to 2022. The owner already had nine years to find and develop a site outside the now-protected Metolius basin – it is more than enough.

HB 2031A also allows the developer to avoid the land use laws that benefit all Oregonians. Current law (passed in 2015) prohibits the resort site from being in coastal shorelands or within natural hazard areas as identified in an acknowledged Comprehensive Plan. HB 2031A *explicitly* allows the developer to apply for the resort in coastal shorelands and natural hazard areas. This makes a mockery of carefully researched and community agreed-upon land use restrictions by simply overriding them legislatively for the benefit of a single developer. It is extremely poor policy. It will also endanger the public health and safety to allow a resort to be built in an area subject to natural hazards.

Clearly Clatsop County is the chosen locale, as it is the only election site in current law with coastal shorelands. We have heard that the developer favors Bradwood Landing.

This is an ecologically important area, very rural, which should not be subjected to a resort. However, if the developer is interested in a resort at Bradwood, or any other coastal location, he should work *within* the land use laws as everyone else does, and succeed or fail according to whether he meets the requirements.

He should not be allowed to override coastal shorelands and natural hazard restrictions. These benefit residents, visitors and the ecological integrity of the fragile coastal region. Oregon should not be carving out exceptions for a developer to build in areas known for natural hazards – that is taking a huge gamble with the ecosystem integrity we all rely on, people’s lives, and property.

Please vote against HB 2031A.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please place this testimony into the record for this measure.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Cameron La Follette*

Cameron La Follette