

June 26, 2017

Senate Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 432 and proposed amendments

Dear Committee member,

I urge you to oppose the passage of SB 432. The bill assumes that statewide land use planning requirements are an impediment to rural economic growth and development, when, in fact, there is no evidence to support this conclusion. To the contrary, thoughtful, up-to-date comprehensive plans and zoning can attract the kind of development that communities desire, as developers and industry often consult these plans for guidance. The operational word here, however, is "up-to-date." Unfortunately, most county comprehensive plans in eastern Oregon are over 30 years old and have not been updated in all these years. While the legislature provided funding to DLCD for the original comprehensive plans, it has not provided sufficient funding for updating them, leaving rural counties with out-of-date plans that don't recognize recent trends such as alternative energy development, changes in agriculture, tourism and so on. The proposed open-ended exceptions process is a band-aid approach to a broader issue. The problem, as I see it, is not the requirement for planning and zoning under current law, but rather the lack of financial resources to update these plans in a more comprehensive fashion to be meaningful for the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Daniels". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katherine Daniels  
Retired DLCD Farm and Forest Lands Specialist