

February 7, 2018

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Clem and Committee: RE: HB 4031

I am writing to oppose HB 4031, in any form and without regard to amendments.

Who am I: just your average Oregonian. I happened upon this bill as I researched a wildlife related bill, which I was concerned about.

It is my belief that there is no repair that could be done to fix this piece of legislation, unless the committee took out most of the content.

More importantly, **this bill reflects a travesty in the legislative process.**

**\*\*\* How is it fair to Oregonians for our representatives to put together bills that fundamentally undermine the democratic process and our laws (land use in this case)?**

1) This bill purports to be about the Metolius development transfer from years ago. But then mixed in here and there and the entire last section is **about providing legal ways to exempt developments from Oregon's land use laws** and county codes. And the bill explicitly lists multiple counties in which these exemptions can take place.

2) In essence, **this bill is sneaky**. Sorry, I could say its "not transparent" or its "disingenuous" – but we really ought to call it what it is...which is a sneaky, fast-tracked, shady attempt to get around land use laws. In the end, it hurts Oregonians.

3) What's really sad is now **the public has little opportunity to discover – much less comment** on – what their legislature is doing. And certainly the overworked legislative watchdogs barely have time to write their letters much less educate the public.

4) Who knows what's going on over here? It's like, "**Hey, we got a month, lets trash and gut Oregon's land use laws...**no one is paying attention. We'll mask it in a bill that makes it look like it only applies to a particular development.

5) **The way in which this legislation will be interpreted is reflected in the testimony provided here** by private individuals with developments who would also like some exemptions from land use laws tossed their way. It's a land-use-law-exemption free-for-all.

6) Oregonians have made it really clear that they do not appreciate and find bills that privilege one party (so called 'one-offs') to be fundamentally unfair. And this Metolius development, like the Cyrus family special deals, just keep coming back over and over again. It's exhausting.

7) What on earth is an "Economic Development Pilot Program" doing in here? The Land Conservation and Development Commission is now a Chamber of Commerce for particular developments? What industries are they to cherry pick out for promotion? What jobs? The poor ethics of this is just astounding.

In Sum:

- Current land use laws need to apply to all EQUALLY
- An extension of TIME only should apply to the Metolius transfer deal...*nothing else* (who is this special guy anyway?)
- ANY statewide land use law changes should come only with an open, transparent process that has far-reaching publicity so that Oregonians know its happening, and then enough time should be allotted for discovery and comment.
- All proposed developments should be statewide and county laws/codes.

Please read the specific comments from 1000 Friends, OLAWA, and Oregon Landwatch for how to specifically deal with this bill.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of a person of non-importance.

Elise Wolf, Sisters, OR