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March 26, 2019

Via Email

House Agricultural and Land Use Committee
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3272 and citizens' rights to insist on accurate records of local government decision-making

Dear Chair Clem and Committee Members:

Central Oregon LandWatch opposes HB 3272 and urges the Committee to reject the bill in its entirety. LandWatch is a nonprofit conservation organization working to promote livable communities and working farms and ranches across Central Oregon.

Last summer, a Deschutes County farmer testified about a proposed development on the EFU land next to his farm. He testified that he has been harvesting three cuttings of alfalfa per year on soil identical to the soil where development was proposed, so his testimony was valuable evidence in favor of protecting the land for agricultural use.

When Deschutes County submitted its record of the proceedings, the videotape containing the farmer's testimony was left out of the record.

The ability to object to the record and have it corrected was vital to preparing an accurate view of the facts in the case, and to holding the County responsible for the decision it had made.

A forthright local government will always encourage clear and objective record preparation and will welcome all corrections to a record. A local government should welcome extended timelines for objections and make it easier, not harder, to ensure record accuracy.

This bill undermines the checks and balances that have been an integral part of the land use process for decades. There is no positive aspect to it from

the point of view of the public. For these reasons, we hope the Committee will reject this ill-considered bill.

Sincerely,

/s/ Paul Dewey

PAUL DEWEY
Executive Director

