



P.O Box 1083  
McMinnville, OR 97128

April 29, 2019

Helping to shape the use of our natural resources to protect the quality of life in Yamhill County.

---

House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97901

RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB 8

Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the Committee:

Friends of Yamhill County works to protect natural resources through the implementation of land use planning goals, policies, and laws that maintain and improve the present and future quality of life in Yamhill County for both urban and rural residents.

We strongly support the development of affordable housing and have great respect for those working in the field in the face of stereotypes and economic biases. They struggle with limited resources and can ill afford to have funds drained off in specious litigation. Affordable and middle housing are critical to meeting Goal 10.

**Goal 10** - To provide for the housing needs of citizens of the state. Buildable lands for residential use shall be inventoried and plans shall encourage the availability of adequate numbers of **needed housing units at price ranges and rent levels which are commensurate with the financial capabilities of Oregon households** and allow for flexibility of housing location, type and density.

We oppose SB 8 out of concerned for unintended consequence of this or any carve-out for special purposes at LUBA. Citizens who may want a matter addressed are already facing an uphill battle in an area of law usually practiced by specialists. It is a struggle to find the resources for their own legal counsel. They may very well be unduly discouraged by the prospect of possibly having to pay the legal costs for the other side. Honest differences of opinion or interpretation need equal access the LUBA without regard to relative wealth. Citizen involvement is Goal 1 and deserves our protection.

**Goal 1** - To develop a citizen involvement program that insures the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process.

We appreciate the efforts that have been made to draft the bill to be as specific as possible to address a real problem for one jurisdiction. However, we believe that mechanisms to address this exist in the current LUBA procedures. The scope of any modification should be limited to strengthening that process. Friends of Yamhill County holds as a core value protecting public involvement in the land use system.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

*Friends of Yamhill County*

Kathryn Jernstedt  
President

Cc: [Rep.RonNoble@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.RonNoble@oregonlegislature.gov)  
[Rep.TawnaSanchez@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.TawnaSanchez@oregonlegislature.gov)  
[amie.fendersosa@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:amie.fendersosa@oregonlegislature.gov)  
[hhs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hhs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

SB 8 FYC