



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 100-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

February 10, 2020

To: [House Committee on Human Services and Housing](#)  
Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair  
Email: [hhs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hhs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: [HB 4095](#) – Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) Expansions – **OPPOSE**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports our statewide land use planning program. We believe that urban growth should be well-planned and such development should include not only housing, but employment, transportation and a nexus to public services.

We have watched the process around HB 4079 (2016) where the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) was authorized to select two cities for an urban growth boundary expansion to promote affordable housing. We were engaged in the rulemaking for implementation of this bill. After receiving applications, the City of Bend was selected as the “large city” and is beginning to move forward with selection of the site and development proposals. But there is much to be done and Bend is also dealing with a regular UGB expansion, planning for implementation of HB 2001 (2019) so planning for all these opportunities is a challenge. And infrastructure planning and development will be costly. Until the development occurs, the pilot (experiment) has not been proven the least expensive and most productive way to provide affordable housing.

Small cities have less staffing capacity and, although the City of Wheeler expressed interest, their one staff person changed employment and no application was submitted. As a result, the legislature authorized that a second large city be selected due to their impressive first application.

The City of Redmond is actively working on their expansion opportunity and may well be ahead of Bend in getting units on the ground as we understand that the land selected is publicly owned. The League supported the selection of Redmond as this second opportunity after seeing the proposal, including how they will integrate this land into their larger planning efforts. But they, too, have not proven that this pilot is the best choice for providing for affordable housing due to the costs of infrastructure and availability of jobs, shopping and other services.

In 2019, this legislature invested considerable monies and changed public policy and land use regulations to focus efforts on areas **inside cities** where there may well be infrastructure, transit and services needed, especially for low income Oregonians. We believe that HB 4095 is premature and expensive for both state agencies and local governments to consider. **We ask that you oppose this legislation at this time.**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch  
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator