



February 11, 2022

House Committee on Housing:
State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Or 97301

Dear Chair Fahey and Committee Members,

Marion County Farm Bureau opposes HB 4118 and -1 Amendment.

Oregon farmers have depended on the land use laws to protect our livelihoods. This bill allows individual developers to bypass land use laws and the community process. The bill ignores the fact that reserves are to be used after the 20-year land supply of cities' UGB are utilized. Urban reserves and rural reserves were carefully worked on together with cities and farmers and foresters and interested groups on all sides with the understanding that land use laws would be respected.

As of now substantial areas of urban reserves are farms and forest and natural areas. They are providing food, habitat, carbon sequestration, and jobs. Pitting housing against farmland is not the best plan. Cities need to take real action to provide housing options where people want to live with shops, schools, work, water, and utilities. More workforce housing is needed, but casting away land use laws, public process, and city responsibility is not the way.

The -1 Amendment is creating an unwieldy task force with not a farmer or rancher mentioned of the 30 or more members. The scope of this task force is too broad and skewed to developers and cities. Moreover, the task force would have a multitude of issues such as changes to statutes, rules, and urban growth boundaries; industrial lands development; manufacturing shovel ready lands; natural hazards; and "state funding and tax abatements for infrastructure investments."

Oregon has always taken pride in citizen involvement and protecting the agricultural land base and forest and natural areas which this amendment and bill will bypass.

In this short session, Marion County Farm Bureau believes that HB4118 and the -1 Amendment is overreaching and is ignoring Oregon's land use laws and its farmers and ranchers and therefore we opposed this bill and the amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Carl, Director

on behalf of the Marion County farm Bureau