

Submitter: Kathleen Carl
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing
Measure: HB4118

February 11, 2022

House Committee on Housing
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Fahey and Committee Members,

I believe HB 4118 and the -1 Amendment, which is essentially a new bill, are both bad bills. I vigorously oppose them.

I am a co-owner of a 475 acre farm that has been in our family for 107 years. Oregon's land use laws have helped protect us from cities expanding too far on to "shovel ready land," which is essentially another name for farm land. It maybe more difficult, but cities need to use their 20 year land supply first. Moreover, the original HB 4118 allows individual land owners or developers to bypass the public process for developing onto urban reserves. Public input is an integral part of how to make decisions for all, not just a developer.

The -1 Amendment looks even worse, creating an unwieldy and biased task force with: members dedicated to building trades, members dedicated to businesses seeking industrial land development, members dedicated to cities looking for development, members representing the real estate industry, and then an Oregon House Representative representing real estate, an Oregon House member representing building trades, another House member representing home building. And so on. There is not a farmer or rancher mentioned. Or an organization which seeks to protect farm land.

This -1 Amendment tries to stack the deck against saving farm land and then also has too many issues to adequately address.

Throughout the pandemic, the forest fires, the ice freeze, and the heat dome Oregon farmers and ranchers have continued to work and produce to keep our economy going. Please respect them and oppose this blow to our land use laws.

Thank you.