

Submitter: Karen Harding  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Housing  
Measure: HB4118  
To: House Committee on Housing

Re: HB 4118

Dear Representatives,

I am opposed to HB 4118 and the -1 amendment as it is a blighted attempt to circumvent well thought out land use policy. Although I agree that workforce housing is at an all time low there are better ways that communities can increase their housing. Housing and farmland are equally important to Oregon's survival. We can't pit them against each other. And we can't sacrifice the land use process that we rely on to keep OR from being a suburban nightmare that degrades the natural landscape and farmland.

This amendment is too hasty, too poorly formulated, too cumbersome, too riddled with loopholes for special interests, and too clandestine for public input. It circumvents public process.

The proposed task force membership is skewed towards landowners, developers and local governments who already wield too many special interests. Giving private landowners the ability to initiate a process to expand UGB is giving special interests too much power. It is ripe for misuse and misrepresentation.

If we are to figure out a solution to climate change we must not expand the UGB to prioritize single family housing, it creates sprawl and undermines the push for Climate Friendly Areas currently being addressed in the Exec Order 20-04.

HB 4118 pits housing against farmland and tries to call it a solution to affordable housing. We are on our way to creating more middle housing with HB 2001, and density with 20-04. We don't need a diversion that is poorly planned. Let's keep on the methodical path that increases diverse and affordable housing options where people need and want to live, inside UGB's.

I ask that the Committee vote NO on HB 4118 and the -1 amendment.

Respectfully,

Karen Harding

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