

Submitter: Megan Wade
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

I strongly oppose the dash-17 amendment to HB 3414.

Right now, Oregon is better suited than most other states to maintain food security despite a radically changing climate because we have preserved diverse farmland and do not need to be solely reliant on imports. We continue to have greater opportunities for fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation because of our current land use laws as well. These are all important things to preserve for our future, and they should not be recklessly traded away. We could be building housing within our existing Urban Growth Boundaries already; yet we keep failing to, because of issues like single family zoning and a failure to fund appropriate infrastructure and actual construction of denser and more affordable housing. That's what needs to be fixed, not the UGB itself. To let a mass expansion of the UGB take place now just kicks the can down the road for difficult political acts we need to take anyhow, and that we'd be better off taking now. Additionally, expanding our cities outward is going to continue to increase the risk of wildfire in urban areas, and homeowners and the state will end up bearing that cost. This amendment will not do us any favors, and it may do us a great deal of harm, and it should not be included in the bill.