

Submitter: Paul Leitman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

I recognize Oregon needs more housing, and I'm glad the State Legislature is looking at a wide variety of strategies to increase housing production. However allowing cities to expand their UGBs by bypassing land use laws is poor policy. Please oppose the dash-17 amendment to HB 3414.

First, there is a significant amount of land throughout the state that is already within UGBs that are underutilized. We need zoning reform to allow for a wider variety of uses to be built everywhere, not just for housing to be built where only housing is allowed. Cities should be required to rezone to allow for housing in more places, and to allow for more housing and a wider variety of housing types. Many commercial areas or office parks are underutilized. Developers should be allowed to repurpose that land for what we actually need: places to live.

Secondly, a major barrier to housing production is infrastructure. There is a backlog of needs for sewers, sidewalks, water and energy infrastructure. Expanding UGBs will do nothing to solve this challenge. It can only exacerbate the difficulties.

Third, we need to face the reality of climate change, fire risks and increasing costs of energy. Large UGBs will undermine the limited progress we are making toward reducing our carbon footprint, reducing fire risk and make it easier for people to get around by multiple transportation modes and not just by car.

Please vote no on the dash-17 amendment to HB 3414.