

Submitter: Kelly Ritz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

As this Committee knows too well, Oregon is in an affordable housing crisis and every community is suffering from the rippling effects of our housing backlog. Schools are struggling to find teachers and nurses who can afford to live and work in their communities. Our businesses, still reeling from the pandemic, cannot attract workers because of a lack of affordable housing. Oregon families are being forced to spend most of their income on housing expenses. Our rural and coastal towns cannot grow and risk fading into economic disarray.

Because of the Governor's and the Legislature's commitment to bold action on housing this Session, we have an opportunity to make meaningful change that can yield significant results for Oregonians. HB 3414 and the -17 amendment, is an essential piece to solving the affordable housing crisis.

By allowing for modest and reasonable expansions of urban growth boundaries into already designated urban reserves, HB 3414 -17 would provide our cities with a new tool to help address our state's severe underproduction. Both small and large cities need every tool available to them to develop more housing, create jobs, and bring down costs for Oregon families. We urge you to move forward with HB 3414 -17 this session.