

Submitter: Ted Labbe

On Behalf Of: Urban Greenspaces Institute

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB2659

Last year, the Urban Greenspaces Institute joined a big coalition of housing, environmental, justice, business, and transportation groups around the state to support the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities rulemaking. These reforms are crucial and needed to help Oregon communities weather through the ongoing climate changes that are undermining our State's economy, human and ecological health. I am writing today to express my concern with and opposition to the proposed HB 2659.

HB 2659 would kill tens of thousands of potential homes around the state, especially lower-cost ones and homes near transit. Oregon communities can no longer afford the style of private development that externalizes the costs of public utilities, transportation and human health. The Urban Greenspaces Institute and other environmental advocates are working in good faith to agree with cities on administrative changes that can help cities comply, without throwing away years of work by repealing this entire package of Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities rules. Please do not support HB 2659 or the ill-considered thinking behind it. Please work with us to help Oregon communities adapt to and survive.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Ted Labbe