

Submitter: Linda de Boer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4026
To: Oregon House Rules Committee
HB 4026-1
OPPOSE

February 19, 2024

Dear Chair Fahey and members of the Rules Committee:

An extraordinary decision is in your hands with HB 4026-1. I hope that you have the opportunity to listen to the voices of so many people in this rural Washington County area who are now realizing that citizens need to exercise those voices for the good of our County and our State.

My name is Linda de Boer, and we moved into this home in the West Union/Helvetia area exactly fifty years ago, in February, 1974. Our small, steep and forested acreage does not qualify as farm land; however, it does provide refuge for elk and deer. We have been aware for this half century that our neighbor farmers need to be supported and respected. We have watched as land devoted to farming has diminished along U.S. 26. Most of the expansion has been in annexed Hillsboro land, and recently, much of that land has gone to data centers and distribution facilities and parking. Some of the expansion has been in North Plains, whose current leaders now want to double the land within their own UGB. With our view point, our neighborhood can clearly see the endangerment of rural lands in Washington County. We know that there will be more growth, but we are to the point where that growth should be much more carefully considered. There is a shrinking and finite amount of agricultural land remaining. Those who are aware of this threat, want North Plains to carefully consider its expansion with input from its citizens. Please allow that process to take place with your NO vote on HB 4026-1.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to our State,

Linda de Boer
Rural Washington County