

Submitter: Faun Hosey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4026

Dear Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee,

I grew up in the forests of the McKenzie River. I've lived near Portland, Hillsboro and North Plains for the past 53 years. My ancestors arrived in the Willamette Valley in 1846 and 1847. I've seen that involving the public in planning for our distant future is the best way to assure we'll have what we need when the future arrives.

I feel it's important for you to see that in the -1 amendment (filed at 4:30 Friday afternoon) NORTH PLAINS IS TRYING TO SHUT OUT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT by retroactively canceling the anticipated vote on a Ballot Measure about their city expansion. Worse, this strong arm maneuver would be blanket legislation applying statewide. It's counter to the spirit of, and legal right to, CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT – which is a bulwark, a vital strength, a proud and powerful underpinning, of Oregon government.

Still, I'm not opposed to growth; nor are my friends in the city. We're in favor of growth that is carefully controlled and financially feasible. But, North Plains' proposal is to more than double the size of the town, sprawling outward with data centers, unaffordable housing, and increased traffic. This growth rate is unprecedented and unreasonable. In the last year, population forecasts and business EXPANSION FORECASTS HAVE BOTH SHRUNK.

I'm compelled to interject two concerns. One is my deep concern for the long term sustainability of our resources – air, water, soils and habitat – without which humanity cannot survive (and which exists in unusually high quality and proportion around North Plains). Another concern is for the local government process already in play, in which our county planning commission and our county board have respected the placement of the measure on the upcoming ballot, and are awaiting its outcome before weighing in on the related ordinance. The HB 4026-1 as amended would circumvent these considerations, and would disrespect the thoughtfulness which the process deserves. Isn't it ironic that a placeholder bill, ostensibly written to strengthen the voice of the electorate, would be hijacked in this way?

In North Plains, we need to get back to the table, to examine the costs and updated needs, and be more conservative with the numbers.

The way to get back to the table is to LISTEN TO THE VOICES -- AND VOTES -- of the citizens! But HB 4026-1 would ignore the voices and outlaw the votes. Please

vote NO.

Once again, THANK YOU for your active involvement in Oregon's issues!

PS, please enjoy this story of a legacy that's as modern now as it was then. This is the new, acclaimed, 80-minute documentary, "An Oregon Story" about the inspiring process that created Oregon land use laws, beginning 50 years ago --
<https://www.anoregonstory.com/oregon-story-film>