

Submitter: Jon Hennebold  
On Behalf Of: Myself  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB4026

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 4026, particularly Amendment 1, which seeks to limit democratic participation in decisions regarding urban growth boundary (UGB) expansions in our cities.

As a concerned citizen, I firmly believe that this amendment would hinder the fundamental right of the public to bring a referendum to reverse a UGB expansion decision, effectively silencing the voices of residents who oppose such expansions. This is a direct affront to democracy and local governance.

The implications of this amendment are deeply concerning, especially considering its retroactive nature, which would invalidate crucial ballot measures such as North Plains' Measure 34-327. By disenfranchising local residents and preventing them from having a say in matters that directly affect their community's future, HB 4026 would set a dangerous precedent that undermines the very essence of democracy.

Moreover, the proposed expansion outlined in Measure 34-327 raises numerous red flags that warrant careful consideration and robust public discourse. The doubling of the city's size and the addition of massive industrial areas along the highway would irrevocably transform North Plains into something it has never been—a lesser Hillsboro, devoid of its rural charm and character.

Furthermore, the lack of transparency and detailed planning surrounding this expansion is deeply troubling. The absence of a comprehensive plan, coupled with conflicting statements regarding the use of industrial land, raises legitimate concerns about the long-term implications and feasibility of such a drastic undertaking.

Additionally, the potential loss of valuable farmland and the disregard for food security in favor of short-term profits for developers and landowners is unacceptable. As stewards of our environment and agricultural heritage, we have a responsibility to protect and preserve our finite resources for future generations.

Furthermore, the failure to address the pressing issue of affordable housing in the proposed expansion plan only exacerbates existing inequalities and undermines the well-being of our community.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose HB 4026 and any amendments that seek to undermine public participation and transparency in decisions regarding UGB expansions. Instead, I implore you to uphold the principles of democracy,

accountability, and community engagement by advocating for policies that prioritize the voices and concerns of local residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Jon Hennebold