



Representative Julie Fahey, Chair
Representative Jeff Helfrich, Vice Chair
Representative Jason Kropf, Vice Chair
Members of House Committee on Rules

The Association of Oregon Counties offers this letter in **support of House Bill 4026 with the -1 Amendment.**

Cities in Oregon are getting to the point where many will need to work with their county on adjusting their urban growth boundaries. They will need to do this in order to accommodate not only the housing needs necessary to achieve Governor Kotek’s housing initiatives, but also the increasing job growth their communities are facing. The state requires local governments to have and follow a comprehensive land use plan which is required to be created based on facts. Furthermore, we are required to follow these plans when making decisions on appropriate zoning and development. Every incorporated city in the state has an established UGB and works closely with their county (or Metro) on changes when they need to occur. Cities are required to have within their UGBs, a twenty-year supply of urbanizable land to be used for housing, employment, industry, open space, and recreational needs.

AOC has a priority this session for “limited urban growth boundary expansions that significantly increase affordable and workforce housing in all communities experiencing shortages of buildable land.” House Bill 4026-1 will play a key role in helping achieve this priority.

The current process of changing an established urban growth boundary is not only long, expensive, but also litigious. The current process follows the various Land Use Goals around public engagement (Goal 1), as well as Goal 2 (Land Use Planning), Goal 9 (Economic Development), Goal 10 (Housing), Goal 12 (Transportation), and Goal 14 (Urbanization). The current land use process for altering an Urban Growth Boundary takes years to navigate in order to secure the land capacity needed to accomplish all of these Land Use Goals outlined above.

Local governments need to be fiscally responsible with our resident’s tax dollars. If a local government needs to expand, they will go through the established process all while expending substantial investments of public dollars and staff time required.

This bill, if passed, will help achieve AOCs UGB priority in continued partnering with the state on the current housing crisis.

We encourage the committee’s support of House Bill 4026-1.

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1212 Court St. NE | Salem, OR 97301-4181 | 503.585.8351 | www.oregoncounties.org