

Submitter: Russ Sheldon
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4026

Honorable State Legislators:

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of codifying clarifying language regarding the state-required UGB expansion process in Oregon.

I have been involved in the affairs of the city since 1998, volunteering in many different capacities. I joined the city council in 2017 to play a role in helping shape the community for the future – many years down the road. Since that time, I have seen the benefit from the vital improvements to our city. These include many improvements in infrastructure and the addition of new businesses that bring additional services to our community.

The result of the planning is the application for the UGB and movement toward thinking through the growth over the next 20 years for our city. The truth is, the City of North Plains has followed the prescribed process for expansion of its' Urban Growth Boundary and by undertaking a transparent, thoughtful, calculated, and deliberate approach for the needs of our beloved community for the course of the next twenty years – and for me specifically, just exactly the duty of an elected representative.

Our governance isn't built on the Referendum process – it would be a ridiculous prospect to govern this way and absolutely NOTHING would get accomplished.

This measure was brought to voters by a few non residents who do not even live in our city, the area of proposed expansion or who will vote on this matter. And these outsiders are the driving force behind the referendum. These folks have presented arguments that are not valid or sound – they are meddling in the affairs of OUR City.

Please see through the weak arguments presented by some of those opposed and take away the risk to our hopes for us residents of North Plains by passing this amendment and clarifying the existing law – for all other Oregon Cities who might face the same dilemma. Changing the law isn't necessary.

Through proper planning and careful implementation of these plans, we believe that the possibilities of our growth will end up complementing our community.

Cordially,

Russ Sheldon
North Plains Resident