



Washington County
Committee for Community Involvement

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Representative Julie Fahey, Chair

+ House Committee on Rules members

Oregon State Capitol

Salem, OR 97310

Date: 21 February 2024

RE: Opposition to HB 4026-1 Amendments

Dear Chair Fahey and committee members,

For over 115 years, Oregon's system of government has included citizen initiative and referendum and recall powers. Washington County Committee for Community Involvement (WC CCI) totally supports land use Goal 1 for citizen involvement throughout the planning processes. Please don't abandon the Goals and accomplishments of Oregon's landmark land use law. Voting is the essence of getting the most citizens involved in land use decisions. In a bi-partisan government, voting is essential for democracy to work.

We are very concerned with the amendments to HB 2046-1, particularly section 1, -5) which would diminish the rights of Oregon citizens by banning referenda on UGB expansions. We agree with the strong majority of letters opposing the HB 4026-1 amendments. (74-1-12)

Since 1973, the CCI has provided a direct line of communication between residents and county government and has been dedicated to the success of community participation in government decision-making processes. The WC CCI is a vital part of the Washington County CPO Program, which is made up of 17 Community Participation Organizations (CPOs) led by volunteers with a membership from the geographic communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Bruce Bartlett, WC CCI Chair

Jim Long, Past WC CCI Chair

CC: Washington County Board of Commissioners