

Submitter: Jeremy Anderson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4026

Dear Senators, I'm writing to urge you to oppose HB 4026, a measure that grossly restricts the rights of Oregonians to oppose the overreach of local governments.

There are several reasons why this measure should be opposed:

1) I believe this bill to be unconstitutional. Only a constitutional amendment can alter the citizen's right to call for a referendum. Bringing this statute violates those rights and will likely result in a costly and unnecessary legal challenge. It should not be considered in the first place.

2) The means by which this provision came into being, through an existing unrelated bill, in the middle of a Friday afternoon session, REEKS of underhanded secrecy. The bill is an obvious attempt to stop a measure already on the May ballot for the citizens of North Plains. Ten percent of the residents of that city signed a petition to get a referendum on their ballot and their voice deserves to be heard. This bill would rob those residents of their right to due democratic process and their right to exercise the will of the people.

3) The City Council and Mayors of North Plains have repeatedly dodged public comment and hidden their agenda from the people. These cases are becoming more frequent and in this case, very clearly exposes their agenda to enrich themselves at the expense of future residents by passing the largest UGB expansion in Oregon's history. It's no surprise that several City Council members are real estate agents, landholders, and are seeking to line their own pockets through this massive land grab.

4) Referenda are not a trivial matter to bring. Getting 10% of the population to agree to a referendum is not small task. Given that they can't be used to challenge local matters like where to put a school or supermarket, but only to challenge broader legislation makes this an important right of the people to protect.

Please vote NO on this measure. Protect the rights of Oregonians to have their rights to democracy upheld. We should have the right to challenge the egregious overreach of local politicians intent to circumvent the will of the people.

Sincerely,
Jeremy L Anderson
Resident - North Plains