

Submitter: Adam Sunshine

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3928

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3928. I urge you to vote against this bill.

As the Assistant Manager of Hillsdale Farmers Market, a farm worker, and someone who hopes to one day start my own farm, I am deeply concerned about the harmful impacts of HB 3928. This bill will drive up the price of agricultural and forestry land, making it increasingly difficult for new and aspiring farmers like myself to access affordable land. It prioritizes speculative development over the needs of the working lands stewards who grow our food, manage our forests, and sustain our rural communities.

Through my work at Hillsdale Farmers Market, I witness the challenges faced by local farmers and producers as they strive to provide fresh, healthy food to Oregonians. Programs like Double Up Food Bucks aim to make nutritious, locally grown food accessible to all, but those efforts depend on preserving affordable, productive land. If HB 3928 passes, it will undermine these initiatives and drive more farmers away from the very lands they depend on.

The bill's push to develop single, detached homes outside urban growth boundaries will not address Oregon's housing crisis. Instead, it will fragment our agricultural and forestry lands, disrupt common farming practices, increase conflicts over land use, strain limited water resources, and elevate wildfire risks. Meanwhile, thousands of vacant acres within our UGBs are better suited for affordable housing development with modest infrastructure improvements and close proximity to job opportunities.

Oregon needs housing solutions that integrate with existing communities, not sprawl that threatens our working lands. We should focus our efforts on sustainable, connected housing within cities and towns where people can access the resources they need.

A vote against HB 3928 is a vote to protect Oregon's agricultural and forestry lands from speculative development that harms rural communities, food access, and the next generation of farmers. I strongly encourage you to vote no on HB 3928.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for your commitment to Oregon's future.

Sincerely,
Adam Sunshine
Assistant Manager, Hillsdale Farmers Market & Farm Worker
Hillsboro, Oregon