

Submitter: Gary Branch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3921

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. I urge you to oppose HB3921.

My name is Gary Branch, and I live in the Charter Oaks area. I am both directly affected by this bill, and a concerned Roseburg citizen.

The State Legislature has the duty to work for all of the residents in the state, not just a handful of interested parties. With regard to the letters in support of this bill and the UGB swap, be reminded that most of those citizens do not reside in the Charter Oaks area at all. Most if not all have a financial interest in seeing their land sold, or building and selling houses. They have much interest, as does the city, also for realizing financial gain. It would seem that this plan should be between the city and the residents it affects. This issue should not be a one-up-manship contest between "interested parties" against the actual residents of the Charter Oaks area.

We purchased our home in this area because it's county, it's rural and there is little traffic or crime. If the city goes through with their plan, it will disrupt all of this and it will not help mitigate homelessness - in spite of the so-called "emergency" crafted by this bill - and it will not help any resident who lives in our area. In addition, it will also cost someone (current plan: rely on a developer?) a huge amount of money to pay for either a bridge or an entirely new access road going through private properties. This is an absurd amount of infrastructure needed in order to accommodate building out on a peninsula such as ours.

There are numerous other locations that are more suitable for the city to work with, but instead they have been myopically focused on the Charter Oaks area. They skirted state land use laws, and skewed studies (most of which are out of date and have bad data) in order to achieve their desired end result. This is bad science, and makes me wonder what other legislative processes are being abandoned for self-serving purposes?

Respectfully,
Gary Branch