

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Kevin Cronin. I live in unincorporated Lane County, in the River Road / Santa Clara area, a community of roughly 20,000 people.

I am here in support of **HB 4108**.

My neighborhood functions like part of the City of Eugene in many practical ways. Two parcels away, homes are inside city limits. Five parcels in the other direction is a newly built, dense single-family development within the city. I have a bus stop in my front yard. Every morning, high school students gather there to catch the LTD bus to school. We are connected to city roads, city infrastructure, and city services.

Yet despite receiving water and power from EWEB, despite being surrounded by city neighborhoods, and despite relying on Eugene Police when we call 911, I am barred from joining the city. The only path available to me required convincing my neighbors to annex collectively and pay thousands of dollars each. That is not a realistic option for most households.

As a result, we are denied a basic civic right: the ability to vote for the elected officials who govern the city that already serves us. We also pay out of pocket for services city residents receive automatically, including access to the public library. I'm a die-hard Libby user.

I have heard concerns raised by representatives of special districts. I want to speak directly to that. I live near Emerald Park and am a proud member of River Road Parks and Recreation. If I were to annex into the city, the district would not lose revenue. In fact, it would likely gain it. My household would pay higher out-of-district fees for programs and facilities, resulting in a net increase to the district's revenue.

Finally, Eugene has a well-documented, chronic revenue problem. It makes no sense to prevent willing residents from joining the city, restoring their voting rights, and contributing fully to the tax base and civic life of the community.

HB 4108 fixes a system that is clearly broken. It allows communities that already function as part of a city to formally become part of it.

I urge your support. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.