

Submitter: Philip Higgins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4108

This should be the easiest bill to support in the history of supportable bills due to its common sense nature.

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 4108, which would authorize cities to annex non-contiguous, residentially-zoned land within urban growth boundaries at the property owner's request when that land is already served by city infrastructure.

This is common-sense legislation that removes an unnecessary barrier to housing production.

Currently, Oregon law prevents many residential parcels from being annexed into cities—even when those parcels are already inside the urban growth boundary and connected to city water, sewer, electricity, and streets. These properties are ready for housing development but remain stuck in administrative limbo, sometimes indefinitely, simply because neighboring parcels have not annexed first.

HB 4108 addresses this problem directly by allowing voluntary annexation of residentially-zoned land that already functions as part of the city. This reform will:

Unlock housing opportunities on land already designated and served for urban residential use

Remove outdated red tape that delays or prevents sensible redevelopment

Respect property owner choice by making annexation voluntary, not mandatory

Maximize existing infrastructure investments by allowing full use of services already in place

At a time when Oregon faces a critical housing shortage, we cannot afford to leave buildable residential land underutilized due to procedural obstacles. HB 4108 is a practical, targeted fix that will help communities meet housing demand without requiring new infrastructure or expanding urban footprints.

I urge you to support HB 4108.