

Submitter: Trudy Berne
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4113

The seeming unrelenting and deliberate challenges to Oregon land use laws is disturbing on so many levels. As a native Oregonian I never thought I would need a permit to hike on favorite Central Oregon trails.

We once sponsored two Swiss foreign exchange students. When we took them to our home outside Sisters, it was night when we arrived. They were terrified at the absence of lights in the Three Sisters Wilderness surrounding our property. They wondered if there had been a disaster, a catastrophe leading to damage of the power stations. They asked, "Where are all the people?" I explained the concept of wilderness and "empty" land to them. In Switzerland they had never seen mountains or forests that weren't laced with lights. I took them riding the next morning up into the wilderness. While the horses grazed on dry grass they said something that haunts me still. "

Don't ever let this turn into Switzerland.