

Submitter: Robert Emmons  
On Behalf Of: LandWatch Lane County  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB3197

To: House Committee on Rules

From: Land Watch Lane County

Re: HB 3197

Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee:

Please accept the following on behalf of LandWatch Lane County, a non-profit that has worked for over 25 years to protect, farm and forest land, natural areas and open space in Lane County.

Opponents of HB 3197 allege that its restriction of “clear and objective standards” to housing development within Urban Growth Boundaries somehow disenfranchises property owners and robs the poor of a place to live. However, that assertion fails to recognize that housing outside UGBs is a conditional, not an outright, allowance on lands prioritized for their farm and forest resources and the services they provide to local communities and an overheated planet.

In order to open up these lands to unconditional, wholesale housing not subject to the requirements of farm and forest zoning, opponents have falsely claimed that a bill intended to respect and protect the lands that feed us and the forests that make the houses we live in and the air we breathe is an attack on private property rights; i.e., rights not subject to public responsibilities.

This transparent development scheme is disingenuous at best and yet another pretext meant to erode and eradicate the prescient and sensible oversight of SB 100. To honor its protections in their 50th year we urge your support of the introduced version of HB 3197.

Thank you.

Robert Emmons, President  
LandWatch Lane County