

Submitter: Kasia Quillinan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2316

Honorable Committee Members:

This bill would allow homes on lands "owned" by the departments of Transportation, Fish and Wildlife and Forestry near Urban Growth Boundaries – with the state paying for all the infrastructure. This bill not only would give the state massive new fiscal responsibilities it can ill afford , it specifically bypasses and obviates the Urban Growth Boundary process, and would likely result in the destruction of many acres of sensitive natural resources ranging from wetlands to riparian zones. Allowing additional residential development on State owned Public lands near Urban Growth Boundaries is just one step away from breaking the Urban Growth Boundary surrounding most urban areas, and destroying precious farm and forest lands Sensitive natural areas, presumably now protected by the State;, would just become another 'housing development" ostensibly for low-medium income people. However, because such homes would likely be at a distance from schools (more would need to be built), grocery stores (more would need to be built), jobs and transportation services, the reality is that such extra homes could not be bought by the "intended" recipients. Oregon's Land Use Laws including our Urban Growth Boundary process and criteria for residential siting should be protected and followed. Please vote NO on such a drastic and ill-conceived measure. Residential development can and should be contained within the UGB, thus protecting these valuable lands for the benefit of everyone.