



Locally Grown
and
GROWING STRONG

Testimony HB 4118
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
House Housing Committee

February 14, 2022

Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 4118. HB 4118 allows a metro county to expand its urban growth boundary to include up to 100 acres of land designated as urban reserves to build workforce housing or for workforce commercial uses. OFB opposes the base bill because it allows for the expansion of the UGB without following the existing statutory process, and without undertaking the type of detailed analysis that is ordinarily required for UGB expansion. We have members who participated in the Metro reserves process, and were promised that urban reserves were for future expansion only after exhaustion of the buildable land supply within the UGB.

HB 4118 also has a [-1 amendment](#) that would create a statewide Housing Task Force to evaluate barriers to housing in Oregon. While OFB understand the importance of the affordable housing discussion, the task force created by the amendment is missing a critical piece. It fails to direct the task force to directly consider impacts to agricultural lands as they evaluate housing barriers. There is also not agricultural representation on the task force, despite the fact that many lands statewide that could be candidates for future UGB expansion are agricultural lands. We would like to see the task force become smaller, represent a better balance of stakeholders, and have a more balanced set of questions that account both for housing needs and potential impacts to farmland. We are committed to working on amendments to achieve this goal if the bill moves forward and are engaging with bill proponents to address our concerns with the task force.

Please email MaryAnneCooper@oregonfb.org with any questions related to these comments.