

Submitter: Anne-Marie Eklund
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2316

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing today to urge you to oppose HB 2316-1, which would allow housing development on state-owned lands outside urban growth boundaries (UGBs) by designating them as "Home Start Lands."

I know we have a housing shortage, but this bill is misguided in its attempt to remedy the situation. When I first moved to Oregon, 18 years ago, I thought it was remarkable that we don't have unending sprawl between cities and towns like most states do. It was clear to me immediately that the entire State is benefiting from responsible land-use planning.

This bill, however, circumvents the land use protections and overrides our cherished state and local land use laws. Promoting development outside of cities will increase greenhouse gas emissions, increase the risk of wildfire, and strain rural infrastructure. In addition, it would create low and moderate-income housing that would be disconnected from jobs, schools, and other essential services.

We need to build up, not out, and we need to keep rural Oregon rural. Please vote NO on HB 2316-1.

Sincerely,
Anne-Marie Eklund