

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
From: Aileen Kaye
Date: 3-30-25

Re: “**No**” on HB 3928 (Housing outside of UGB’s)

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

Please vote “**No**” on HB 3928 which would allow urban use of farmland. This proposed legislation flies in the face of what Oregonians hold dear: our land use laws. I have had educational land use booths at the Oregon State Fair and the Marion County Fair many years; the public cherishes our land use laws and they want to keep Oregon “Oregon”. A survey done by DHM Research in 2023 found that **“Fully 71% of Oregonians said they would oppose allowing local governments to permit housing developments in areas currently protected as farm and forestlands, according to the new poll.”**

As a horse owner for over 44 years, I know the value of farmland to keep, feed, and ride horses. Land for hay over those years has been reduced due to housing developments.

Agriculture is the second-largest economic driver in Oregon. We cannot continue to destroy our farmland with housing developments, data centers, semiconductor manufacturing centers, solar energy facilities, and a variety of uses that need to be done in urban areas like weddings, music concerts, restaurants, etc. Also, with climate change, food and crops will not be able to be grown south of here and Oregon will be depended on to provide sustenance. Also as you each well know, building houses outside the UGB poses numerous infrastructure and transportation problems and results in the destruction of nearby viable farms and creates urbanization/sprawl.

To the best of my knowledge, the Oregon legislature still has not collected the data from each county specifying how many acres of buildable land is available for housing. Until that happens, there should be no consideration of weakening Oregon’s farmland protection laws for housing developments.

Please do not pass HB 3928 out of Committee. Thank you.