

Submitter: Susan Stevens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3499

I believe HB 3499 is an unnecessary preemptive law that undermines cities' authority. City elected officials are chosen by their constituents to lead and make decisions in the best interest of their municipalities. Urban renewal offers them an effective tool to improve their communities. Cities in Oregon vary widely by location, population, infrastructure needs, amenities, values, community character and political opinion. A one-size-fits-all requirement for every urban renewal effort to go to a vote would undermine the role of elected city leaders across Oregon. They are elected by members of their community as representatives to make decisions in the public interest. These Oregonians are willing to step into these positions because they care about their communities and take on that responsibility. This bill's mandate would diminish and devalue the important role of our elected leaders and the trust we place in them.

City councils have the option to put decisions to a vote, however this should not be mandated by the state legislature. Just as elected legislators make decisions without a vote of their constituents on each issue, so should our cities' elected leaders.

I oppose HB 3499 and urge you not to move this bill out of committee.

Thank you,  
Susie Stevens  
Former City Councilor  
Wilsonville