

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am writing to oppose HB2316. HB 2316 overrides all land use laws to open up publicly owned lands outside urban growth boundaries to sprawling, expensive development. The bill would allow single, detached homes on lands owned by the Oregon Departments of Transportation, Fish and Wildfire, and Forestry outside, but close to, urban growth boundaries. HB 2316 also requires the state to pay for all infrastructure.

Instead, the state should inventory surplus publicly owned land inside UGBs for possible development for affordable housing. HB 2316, with its focus on lands outside UGBs that have no infrastructure and goals to build only detached dwellings, is very expensive, farther from the things people need, and ignores that many of these lands include sensitive natural resources and are active recreation areas. This bill's focus on building housing for people with middle and lower incomes is better directed inside cities and towns, because Oregonians need housing near schools, stores, and services. We have thousands of vacant acres inside our UGBs, including publicly-owned lands, that are suitable for housing but need an extension of a road or some pipes. We should focus investments and policy changes on housing for all in these places.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.