

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in opposition to HB 4026, specifically as it stands with the current amendments regarding citizens rights to bring a referendum to voters for changes in the urban growth boundary (UGB). I am disgusted to see this amendment, one which would take away voters' rights to be a part of making decisions about their land and the land around them, being slipped into a bill about increasing voter access and turnout. What hypocrisy to state that the state legislature wants to improve voter access to information and a voice while at the same time trying to pass something which would restrict the voice of voters in their local communities. Additionally, such an amendment is NOT an emergency matter, so to see if with a clause stating it is an emergency that must take effect immediately and be back-dated to apply to referendums taking place in May is ridiculous.

Further, it is disheartening to see such an amendment trying to pass through a completely unrelated bill/committee as opposed to facing more publically-watched committees. This amendment does not belong on a bill about voter access (a bill which without amendments would be wonderful). But here it is as the powers that be try to sneak it through in the dark to appease lobbyists.

Citizens such as myself are not opposed to the ideas of growth and expansion, but we need to be able to have a voice in how those decisions are made. We need to have a voice to be able to stop manufacturing plants from going up right next to our homes or to prevent industrial areas from being placed next to our schools and parks. I implore you to not take away our voice. Either move the bill forward without amendments or scrap the entire thing and start anew. But do not pass it as it currently stands.