



March 31, 2025

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Oregon Legislature
Salem, Oregon

Re: **Oppose HB 3928**

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Coast Alliance (ORCA) is an Oregon nonprofit corporation whose mission is protection of coastal natural resources and working with coastal communities to enhance livability.

We write you today with great concern for HB 3928, which authorizes counties to create random housing developments on lands outside urban growth boundaries, including lands zoned for forest and farm use. It creates incentives for developers to purchase such lands.

ORCA is very troubled by this bill, which sets a bad policy precedent by encouraging housing outside designated lands, in areas that have little or no existing infrastructure, and which also are already working lands with tremendous importance to Oregonians, as they provide our food and fiber. Furthermore, large-lot single-family housing is emphatically **not** what Oregon needs. This bill would not contribute to the affordable housing stock Oregon needs to build in urban areas.

The coast already has one of the highest ratios of residents living outside UGBs, as historically people homesteaded the coast in scattered rural patterns. Adequate sanitary and water supply is a constant problem across coastal rural lands. ORCA does not want to see additional stress placed on local rural infrastructure.

Coastal forestlands are some of the most productive in the world, and its farmlands produce uniquely valuable products such as Tillamook cheese and cranberries. Making these lands vulnerable to random housing would be robbing the future of productive lands.

Please oppose HB 3928 as a bad policy and misdirected housing proposal.

Thank you,
Cameron La Follette, Executive Director

