

Submitter: Jacqueline Jones
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4026

Chair Fahey and members of the committee,

My name is Jacque Duyck Jones. I am a 4th generation farmer and steward of the land in North Plains, Roy and Banks. I was raised on Mountaintdale Road and farm literally one field over from the West Subarea proposed UGB designation.

The incredible farmland in North Plains captures carbon, provides clean air, food and fiber, jobs and contributes to the agriculture industry being an economic driver in Washington County and the state of Oregon.

Until community members along with myself started attending the North Plains City Council meetings and diving into the facts and process, there was little to no engagement by the North Plains residents... why?!

It is because the Facebook posts, the water bills, City Government, Staff etc. all made it out to be a DONE DEAL. North Plains residents were also side swiped with the North Plains lobbist working so hard for North Plains to be Super Sited during the SB4 legislative process! It is because the local government was not listening to the concerns and pleas for smart growth that this tool was used.

I have been working to add my voice and concerns to this process since early 2023. This amendment posted at about 4:30 pm on the Friday before a hearing is another example of how difficult it can be to participate and have a voice at all!

Today, this bill is NOT about land use. It is about the VOICE of citizens. The referendum is a constitutional tool available and in the case of Friends of North Plains Smart Growth filing, it was a last resort. The residents of North Plains have further questions regarding the UGB proposal such as cost, infrastructure, have no guarantee how the residential or employment lands will actually be used.

HB 4026 was to study how to improve voter access – this “gut and stuff” will crush citizen input further and is absolutely not necessary with any proceedings with SB1537.

Please oppose this bill with the -1 ammendment.