

Submitter: Robert Bailey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HB4026

It is ironic that the purpose of the original bill was to "improved voter access". The dash 1 amendment instead seeks to hobble citizen involvement and access. Many signed the petition for a referendum because the City planned primarily with willing sellers and developers but they overlooked Goal One, Citizen Participation. North Plains was helped by the City of Hillsboro planners who minimize public participation. The resulting rollout was a "shock and awe" approach, the largest per capita expansion in state history! Then residents were told the City "had" to do this by state law. By state law they should have abided Goal One, Citizen Participation. Now comes the legislature in an attempt to take this redress of referendum away. In this case, citizens sought redress through the county planning commission and the county commissioners. Both have put off deliberations until the referendum has taken place. The City complains of a poor tax base and the plan represents an attempted fund raiser, less a plan for expected growth. Growth numbers are reducing but there is no revision of the plan. North Plains is a face to face kind of town with a strong working class demographic. The City's proposed plan could bury this history. The City should step back, interpret the residents desire for the referendum as a desire to have had a say in the growth: Goal One. The citizen participation organization # 8 has been inactive for some years. It has since restarted. However whether it was active or not does not relieve the City from other avenues of citizen participation. The legislature should not be tempted into compounding the planning wrongs by retroactively forbidding the referendum. Stand up for Goal One and encourage other cities to do the right thing, from the start.