



February 26, 2026

Senate Committee on Housing & Development
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon

RE: Support for HB 4108 – Non-Contiguous Annexation Authority

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lyndsie Leech, and I serve as City Council President for the City of Eugene, representing Ward 7, which encompasses the River Road and Santa Clara neighborhoods — shown in dark purple in the included ward maps. I am writing as an individual councilor representing this ward, not on behalf of the full City Council; however, the City of Eugene has also submitted testimony in support.

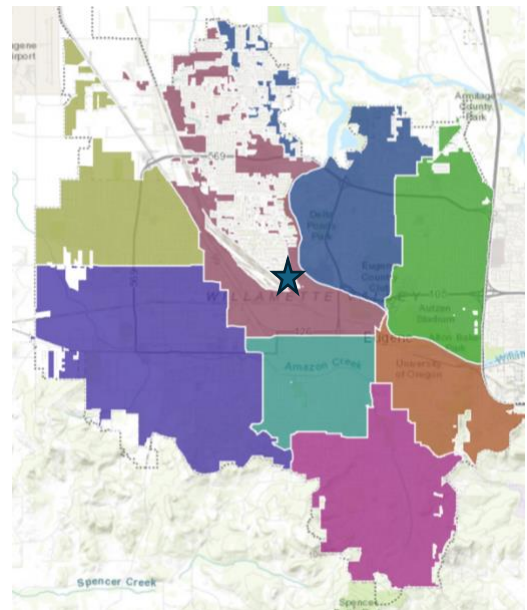
Much of the testimony on this bill appropriately centers on housing production. Oregon has established ambitious housing goals and expects cities to plan for growth, increase density, and coordinate infrastructure accordingly. Fragmented governance in urban unincorporated neighborhoods complicates that responsibility. HB 4108 provides a tool to better align land use authority, infrastructure responsibility, and fiscal accountability within already urbanized areas.

Today, however, I want to center another dimension of this issue: daily lived governance inequities.

I live on River Road, very close to what I consider the center of our city (starred on the included map). My next-door neighbor lives in unincorporated county land. That means they cannot vote in our city elections, even though they live directly next door to who would otherwise be their City Councilor. My family receives free Eugene Public Library cards; theirs does not. I call the Eugene Police Department; they call the Lane County Sheriff.

This is not abstract policy — it is a boundary line running through neighborhoods.

As a city councilor, I cannot count how many times I have helped residents — both inside and outside city limits — navigate the complex, overlapping systems they live within. The interjurisdictional neighbor disputes alone could fill pages.





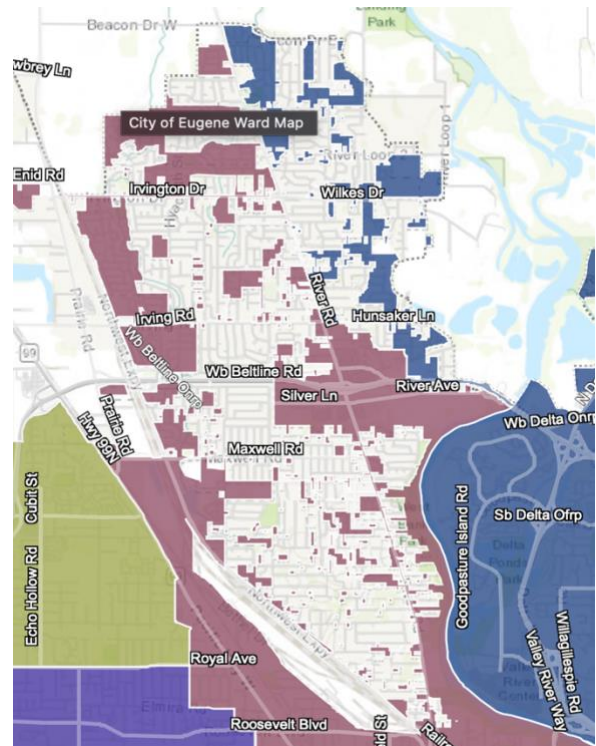
Large portions of River Road and Santa Clara remain outside Eugene city limits despite functioning as urban neighborhoods fully integrated into the city's economic, transportation, and community.

Families attend 4J schools. They use Eugene parks and libraries. Many rely on Eugene Springfield Fire and shared infrastructure systems. Yet governance authority is split among the county, the city, and multiple service districts, including the River Road Park & Recreation District and the Santa Clara Fire District.

This has created a longstanding patchwork of overlapping taxation, fragmented planning authority, and infrastructure coordination challenges

Though Santa Clara has deep agricultural roots, the properties in question are not rural lands awaiting urbanization. They are fully developed residential neighborhoods. The question before you is not whether these lands should urbanize — they already have. The question is whether our governance structures can align with that reality.

HB 4108 does not mandate annexation — we all know that would not work. It does not override service districts that are deeply valued in our community. It does not eliminate intergovernmental agreements. Annexation would still require city council action, public notice, infrastructure review, and compliance with Oregon land use law.



In River Road and Santa Clara, as shown in the maps, the current requirement often means annexing multiple intervening properties simply to reach one willing parcel. That structure does not protect community interests; in many cases, it increases conflict and slows thoughtful development.

It is about ensuring that residents who already function as part of a city have pathways for governance consistency, infrastructure coordination, and democratic participation when appropriate.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support of HB 4108.

Sincerely,

Lyndsie Leech
City Council President & Ward 7 Councilor
City of Eugene