

Submitter: Justin Wood

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HB3414

Good afternoon Chair and Committee Members, please accept my testimony in support of the -17 amendment on House Bill 3414. I am a member of the Governor's Housing Policy Advisory Committee and although I am not testifying officially in my capacity as a Committee Member, I can say that this is an important bill towards helping us achieve our needed housing goals. As you all know the Governor has tasked us with trying to achieve construction of 36,000 houses a year and if we are going to be able to do that we are going to need to think out of the box. The status quo is not going to get us anywhere near our needed housing goal. I applaud the authors of this bill and the members of this committee for trying to explore small but impactful ways that the legislature can make a difference.

These lands are lands that are already designated as areas for potential growth as they are part of approved urban reserves. These are not areas that are "to be protected" and where growth is not planned. This simply will allow cities the ability to expedite small areas of growth without the years of protracted delays and issues as a part of our "normal" land use system. We have to think different and explore other options.

As you all know we are in a housing crisis and families are unable to find homes. This is impacting all of our communities as if we cannot provide enough housing then we cannot attract needed workers across all levels of employment. This bill is a small but important tool in our tool box that we need to help us solve this crisis.

Please consider supporting this bill and doing your part to help us solve this housing crisis.

Justin Wood
Fish Construction NW
Member of HPAC.