

Submitter: Lillian Stone

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure: HB4026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lily Stone and I reside in the Scholls area. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 4026-1. To my knowledge this is the first bill that would limit the right to call a referendum. It is frustrating to see a bill in front of the legislature that limits rights granted by the Oregon Constitution. Supporting this bill sets a dangerous precedent to restrict the role constituents can have in land use decision making.

The bar for a referendum is already set very high. Getting 10% of registered voters' signatures in 30 days is a challenge. If a community feels so strongly against a land use decision that 10% of registered voters are able to come together in 30 days to question said decision, then it illustrates that the decision is worth revisiting. It is also important to recognize referendums are not permitted for localized decisions, like zoning changes. It will only have an impact on areas outside of the UGB.

As Oregonians we have taken to heart the protection of our natural resources through Senate Bill 100. Most of our precious natural resources are outside of the UGB. This protection is what was intended by SB 100 and by limiting the rights of constituents to question decisions regarding these resources, you are not only going in direct conflict of SB100, you are in conflict with the Oregon Constitution. Assuming that government land use decisions are "so complex" that constituents should not have a say in the outcome is underhand, dishonorable, and condescending. At all levels of government we should be encouraging more voices to make sure that our decisions have the best outcomes possible.

Please oppose HB 4026-1 and let ALL Oregonians continue to have a say in ensuring Oregon stays the beautiful Oregon that we love.

Sincerely,
Lillian Stone