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March 23, 2023

Rep. Maxine Dexter, Chair, and Committee Members
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
State Capitol
Salem, OR

Re: HB 3569 and amendments – Oppose as Currently Written

Dear Chair Dexter and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3569 and the -1 amendment. For over 35 years, Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) has been working to create well-planned cities, conserve farmland, and protect wild, open spaces across Central Oregon.

LandWatch appreciates the excellent, bi-partisan work of this committee so far this session that has focused on the policies we need to solve Oregon’s housing crisis most effectively. More work lies ahead, particularly to help meet Governor Kotek’s housing production goals.

LandWatch is in full agreement that Oregon needs to expedite local development of needed housing. NIMBYism over much needed housing projects is a real and serious barrier we need to solve for.

While we support the proponents’ stated objectives of this bill to tackle this issue by speeding up local development and permit processes, decreasing the risk of appeals, and decreasing costs due to arbitrary design standards, this bill as written does not achieve these objectives.

We have significant concerns with Section 3, subsections 2, 6 and 8 in the bill, as we should not circumvent all public participation in the land use process or the central role of the local comprehensive plan in the land use process. And there are other issues with overly broad language in Section 3, subsection 4 that creates confusion around implementation by cities.

For these reasons, we oppose this bill as written. Let’s keep working together to solve for the issues this bill is attempting to address.

Thank you for your service, time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Corie Harlan

Cities & Towns Program Manager



WE DEFEND AND PLAN FOR CENTRAL OREGON'S LIVABLE FUTURE