

House Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Aubrey Russell
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RE: Please vote Against HB 3418; Protect UGBs

June 6, 2023

Dear Chair Fahey and Members of the Rules Committee;

Please vote against HB 3418. Oregon's land use system does not cause a lack of housing affordability. Expanding our UGBs without demonstrated need will not improve the shortage of affordable housing.

On the other hand, Oregon's farm and forest lands are at risk. The state's largest population centers are often immediately adjacent to some of the country's most productive farmlands. Expanding UGBs, without demonstrated need, will further undermine the farms that are the basis of Oregon's important agricultural economy. The number of farms in Oregon has been plummeting for decades due to conversion to residential use.

Please vote against HB 3418. It is not a solution, but exacerbates the growing threat to producing food in Oregon.

Thank you and best wishes,

Aubrey Russell