

Submitter: Heather Ikeler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HB3414

HB 3414 uses the current housing crisis to take a wrecking ball to environmental safeguards in the name of increased housing production. It would allow the State to override local environmental safeguards - many of them established to implement State natural resource planning goals and federal regulations thereby jeopardizing the other ingredients of healthy, affordable communities. HB 3414, as written, would require that municipalities give variances (exceptions) from land use regulations to housing developers under almost all circumstances. Developers could request an unlimited number of variances and there is no requirement in the legislation that a developer demonstrate any benefit to the community as a result of these variances. There is absolutely guarantees that this policy would result in either lower housing costs or increased housing units and every reason to think it is wouldn't significantly. Our land use regulations exist to advance health, safety, equity, and livability in our communities and our environment. Nobody questions that we need thoughtful and effective strategies to address the current housing crisis, but HB 3414 represents neither.