

Submitter: Kevin Barnett
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2316
To Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members:

As a proud Oregonian, I love that Oregon is well-known for protecting its natural spaces while planning for smart growth.

HB 2316 would jeopardize that reputation by allowing sprawl housing development on public lands outside urban growth boundaries—costing taxpayers more while doing little to solve our housing crisis.

Sprawl Isn't the Solution – Building homes far from cities and towns drives up costs, strains natural resources, and ignores the careful planning that has made Oregon a leader in sustainable development.

Infrastructure Costs Add Up – Before a single home is built, the state would have to invest heavily in roads, water, and emergency services—placing an unnecessary burden on taxpayers when more affordable options exist.

Better Options Exist – Instead of pushing development into sensitive areas, we should focus on surplus public lands inside our cities—places where families can walk to school, visit the doctor, and support local businesses. Oregon can meet its housing needs without sacrificing the landscapes that make this state special.

Please reject this measure. Thank you for the chance to say my piece! I appreciate you listening.