

Submitter: Steven Freer
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2316

To Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members:

Having lived in Oregon for almost 30 years, I appreciate that our state is 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 is a poor, wasteful and inefficient solution to housing issues— 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 – Oregon isn't exactly a low tax state, and before a single home is built, the taxpayers of the state would be compelled to invest heavily in roads, water, and emergency services, essentially a subsidy to builders and developers, with no demonstrable benefit to the citizens paying that subsidy. Clearly more affordable options exist.

We have better options. We have surplus public lands inside our cities and towns— places where families can walk to school, visit the doctor, and support local businesses, and perhaps get to know a neighbor or two. Lord knows this country could use a boost in civility right now. Oregon can meet its housing needs without sacrificing the landscapes, clean air and water, and night skies that make this state unique and magnificent.

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

Regards,
Steven D. Freer
A concerned citizen, voter and taxpayer in the State of Oregon.