

Submitter: John Livingston
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2316

HB 2316 -
To Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Committee
Members:

As a proud Oregonian from California having moved here 4 years ago, 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. Urban sprawl should be a last resort to infilling and going up rather than out. Sprawl isn't the solution and building homes outside existing boundaries drives up infrastructure costs, strains natural resources, and ignores the careful planning that has made Oregon a leader in sustainable development. Before a single home is built, the state or existing city would have to invest heavily in roads, water, and emergency services—placing an unnecessary burden on taxpayers when more affordable options exist. Repaving roads due to poor initial construction is a huge cost to homeowners. Better options do exist such as 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.

Regards,