

Submitter: Julie Sikkink Lee

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HB4026

I am a local farmer, along with my husband. This amendment is just an unreasonable effort by the City of North Plains to avoid any challenges to its rushed decision to create the UBG expansion - it's trying to quash a referendum on the decision, not promote effective governance. There's no obvious evidence that citizens are abusing referendum-making power - why fix what isn't broken? You should definitely be suspicious about why the measure needs be retroactive to January 1, 2023 - more than a YEAR ago. It is clearly designed to invalidate the ballot measure because the vote to have a referendum was so clearly and strongly opposed to the vote of the City leaders. This amendment, with its consequences, would be a terrible specific decision, because the UBG expansion was a thoughtless move to benefit a small number of wealthy people at the expense of the long-term health of the community - especially around its food supply. This would also be a terrible general decision, because it limits citizen power and without a compelling reason. Please continue to support citizen rights to call for referendums and to have more, not less, say in the local and state decisions and procedures that end up directly affecting us. Oregon has a long history of care for the land and citizen access and participation in governance. Please support those good traditions; don't impede them.