



OFFICERS

Roger Kaye
President

Richard van Pelt
Secretary

Susan Watkins
Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laurel Hines
Carla Mikkelsen
Linda Peterson
Kasia Quillinan

February 7, 2025

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Oppose HB 2316

To Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Friends of Marion County is an independent 501(c)(3) farmland protection organization founded in 1998. Our mission is to protect farm and forestland, parks, and open space in Marion County.

We oppose the adoption of HB 2316 and we request that the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness reject this bill which will negatively affect the agricultural, forested, and public lands that sustain our communities. This bill disregards existing laws, especially our land use laws that encourage smart growth and the protection of agricultural and forest lands that Oregonians rely on for food, fiber, and jobs.

PROBLEM

HB 2316: Sprawling development on public lands, with state-paid infrastructure

HB 2316 overrides all land use laws to open up publicly owned lands outside urban growth boundaries to sprawling, expensive development. The bill would allow single, detached homes on lands owned by the Oregon Departments of Transportation, Fish and Wildfire, and Forestry outside, but close to, urban growth boundaries. HB 2316 also requires the state to pay for all infrastructure.

Instead, the state should inventory surplus publicly owned land inside UGBs for possible development for affordable housing. HB 2316, with its focus on lands outside UGBs that have no infrastructure and goals to build only detached dwellings, is very expensive, farther from the things people need, and ignores that many of these lands include sensitive natural resources and are active recreation areas.

February 7, 2025

Page | 2

This bill's focus on building housing for people with middle and lower incomes is better directed inside cities and towns, because Oregonians need housing near schools, stores, and services. We have thousands of vacant acres inside our UGBs, including publicly-owned lands, that are suitable for housing but need an extension of a road or some pipes. We should focus investments and policy changes on housing for all in these places.

CONCLUSION

The time is right for the legislature to pay serious attention to Oregon's farm, range, and forest land and the many resources those lands protect. Please stop the land speculation and conversion of Oregon's limited and precious agricultural and forest land resulting from unintended loopholes in existing land use statutes.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Roger Kaye, Pres.
Friends of Marion County
(503)743-4567
FriendsOfMarionCounty@gmail.com