

Submitter: Philip Brady

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HB3197

I am Philip Brady, a resident of The Dalles and a Wasco County Commissioner. I am writing in support of HB3197 which will restrict the criteria of clear and objective to areas inside urban growth boundaries.

Earlier this week, I enjoyed a potluck dinner in Pine Grove which is representative of other unincorporated communities in south Wasco County. I asked the residents why almost every house has an occupied trailer on the lot. The answer was predictable. It is very hard to find housing and very expensive to build or renovate. Therefore, people are letting friends and family reside on their lots in old trailers. This trend, while being a generous and pragmatic response to a desperate need, can lead to personal health problems because most trailers are not built for permanent habitation and public health problems due to insufficient septic arrangements.

I argue that this trend will accelerate and become harder to resolve if our county codes do not allow for local discretion. Making it harder for counties to guide people to build housing that meets current codes will lead people to avoid the compliance process completely with unhealthy solutions such as trailers. While the intent of clear and objective criteria is admirable, the unintended consequences will harm the quality of life in our rural areas.