

Submitter: Andrea Scharf
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing
Measure: HB4118

To Whom It May Concern:

As a long-time resident of Oregon who has worked in land use planning and written about land use planning issues, I would like to urge the defeat of HB 4118 and its proposed amendment.

Every since SB100 was passed, ushering in some of the most intelligent efforts to plan wisely for growth and protection of Oregon's farmland, forestland, and natural beauty, there have been efforts to weaken or destroy it. This bill, even though it seems to be about creating more housing—which we need—is in fact a shield for once again weakening our land use planning laws. Really, it is a cynical and despicable disguise which will chew up farmland and probably benefit people who aren't having problems finding housing.

The committee which is supposed to be advising on this issue is seriously slanted toward developers, once again the very people and interests which recklessly favor urban sprawl. They should not be in charge of guarding the land use hen house—they are the foxes!

Do we have problems providing affordable housing? Indeed we do—but this is not the solution. We need legitimate representatives of all the interests and stakeholders to work together to come up with solutions within the context of existing land use law and safeguards to make sure the legitimate objectives of increasing the housing supply for the people and families who need it are met.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Andrea Scharf
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