



*Protecting Our Natural Heritage
From the Coast to the Cascades*

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May 1, 2025

Senate Committee on Housing and Development

Re: Opposition to HB3921

Honorable Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

LandWatch Lane County is a small 501C(3) organization that was established in 1997. Our mission is to protect farm and forest lands for farm and forest uses, and the protection of natural resources for future generations.

We object to the concept this bill embodies. In other words, a local government unable to meet the requirements of a particular law, or laws, goes to the State Legislature, a political body, for a fix. Not a fix for an issue of statewide significance, but a fix for a personal local issue.

If the Legislature was to approve this Bill, it would violate Goal 1 of the Land Use Goals because it would supersede citizen participation and applicability of approval criteria that other jurisdictions have been subject to in their local requests. The ‘participation’ the state legislative committees ‘offer’ leaves a lot to be desired. As a result of too many bills and no reasonable limits citizens often are limited to relatively short written comments and often only 1 or 1 ½ minutes to testify at a hearing. Questions are rarely if ever asked of citizens by committee members who appear too busy to find time for that.

If you approve this bill, what is your plan for dealing with all the other local jurisdictions who will want the same loophole?

This bill is unnecessary and would set a dangerous precedent with the potential to result in unintended consequences.

We urge you to vote NO on this undermining bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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LandWatch Lane County