

Chairman Marsh, Vice Chairman Andersen, members of the Housing and Homelessness Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. This testimony is on behalf of Friends of Douglas County. Friends of Douglas County is a grassroots organization that works to educate the public about land use and advocates for the preservation of farm and forest land in Douglas County.

We oppose HB3921.

Using the legislature to decide a controversial land use matter that affects very few citizens of Oregon in place of the process set out in rules and statutes, is an unfair manipulation of power. Instead, if the process is flawed or unfair, then the legislature should legislate changes to those rules and statutes for the good of all those that use the system.

Citizen participation is Goal One in the Oregon land use system. In theory it allows local control in how an area or community develops, grows, and makes sure that everyone, including local governments, plays by the rules. Citizen participation assures a balance in the land use system where applications can sometimes negatively affect the quality of life of those living in a neighborhood. To pass HB3921 would stifle citizen participation and upset that balance.

In consideration of this bill, backers of the bill are asking you as a legislator to approve a City of Roseburg UGB swap without pertinent information and details both for and against. For instance, this bill is not about needing more land in the UGB since the city is proposing to swap out land already dedicated and found to previously have met the criteria for inclusion into the city's UGB. Why was this area now in the UGB included in the last expansion while the proposed new swap area was not included? What has changed since the last expansion? Is the trade about less desirable hill ground to build on for flat land that is and has been in the past farmed? How does this bill advance affordable housing and with what guarantee? What are the transportation challenges to the new area? What new infrastructure will be necessary for the proposed area over the existing UGB area? What are any hurdles that the city cannot get over to get this UGB swap approved through the legal channels and why?

Friends of Douglas County urges you not to circumvent the system. Please do not move HB3921 forward. Thank you.

*Caroline Koopanitz*