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April 30, 2025

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3921 - Oppose

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3921.

Central Oregon LandWatch is a land use and conservation advocacy organization that has proudly protected Central Oregon's forests, high deserts, rivers, wildlife, and vibrant communities for more than 35 years. The membership of Central Oregon LandWatch consists of farmers, ranchers, environmentalists, hunters, anglers, housing advocates, and community leaders. Our members share the belief that Oregon's land use system is fundamental to what makes this state such a special place to live.

This bill would have the state of Oregon intervene in an ongoing local land use process to consider expansion of the City of Roseburg urban growth boundary. Such state intervention is unnecessary and would unfairly obviate the longstanding public process for review of local government comprehensive plan amendments. The City of Roseburg in 2024 adopted an ordinance amending its urban growth boundary (UGB), a very common local decision for which exists a clear process defined in statewide law. Subsequently, exercising their participatory rights enshrined in Goal 1 of the statewide land use planning program, a group of Douglas County community members submitted several "objections" to the UGB amendment to the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). In late January, DLCD issued a decision remanding the UGB amendment decision, directing the City and County to correct certain aspects of their decision.

This process is evidence of the state's land use system working as it should. LandWatch expresses no comment on the substance of the Roseburg UGB amendment, but we are strongly opposed to HB 3921 which would circumvent the statewide land use system and approve by legislative fiat a local land use decision. It should be for the existing process, which includes vital public participatory rights, to determine whether the UGB amendment complies with existing state and local land use law.

This bill sets a terrible precedent that removes local control from land use decision-making.
LandWatch opposes HB 3921 and we respectfully request this Committee not pass HB 3921 out of committee.



WE DEFEND AND PLAN FOR CENTRAL OREGON'S LIVABLE FUTURE



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Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Regards,

Rory Isbell
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Central Oregon LandWatch



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