



March 26, 2025

RE: Opposition to HB 2316 and -1 Amendment; Support of Amendment to Apply Inside UGBs.

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

On behalf of the [Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition](#), who have defended the integrity of Oregon's land use program and public access to the beaches for over 50 years, I am writing to express our strong opposition to HB 2316 and its -1 amendment, which would have profound negative consequences for Oregon's land use system, public lands, natural resources, and local communities. This bill presents numerous concerns, including its potential to open up publicly owned lands outside the urban growth boundary (UGB) to development, undermining Oregon's long-standing commitment to responsible land use planning.

One of the most alarming aspects of HB 2316 is that it overrides all state and local land use laws, disregarding our land use planning system. Oregon's land use planning framework has been instrumental in balancing development with conservation, protecting our farmlands, forests, and natural spaces while fostering sustainable growth. This bill would undermine those protections, allowing urban sprawl and habitat fragmentation that would weaken our communities and endanger our public resources.

The bill also lacks necessary protective sideboards to prevent harmful impacts on public lands and wildlife habitat. Without clear constraints, the policy could lead to widespread habitat destruction and fragmentation, negatively affecting Oregon's fish and wildlife populations. Many of these public lands serve as critical refuges for biodiversity and play an essential role in our state's ecological health.

Allowing development outside UGBs without safeguards will create more urban sprawl, further isolating people from essential public services. This could have extreme consequences for rural communities already limited in essential services, such as the Oregon coast. Oregon's UGBs exist to ensure that development occurs in a calculated and efficient manner, providing residents with access to transportation, utilities, schools, and emergency services. Additionally, communities are already challenged with adapting to climate change and addressing increasing hazards. Expanding urban sprawl could hinder resilience efforts and put people at greater risk of wildfire and isolation in the event of a disaster or extreme weather event. Expanding development into public lands would also burden local governments with high infrastructure costs, diverting resources away from essential services and resilience planning and placing an unnecessary financial strain on communities.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose HB 2316 and the -1 amendment as written. This bill undermines Oregon's land use system, threatens public lands and wildlife, promotes costly and unsustainable development of coastal communities, and disregards the expertise of planning authorities. We respectfully request that you reject this legislation and instead focus on policies that support smart, sustainable growth while protecting our cherished natural resources.

If you choose to move this bill forward, we strongly urge you to amend this bill to apply only to publicly-owned lands **inside UGBs**. This safeguard would allow unused public spaces **in cities** to be converted to housing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mandy Watson



Oregon Shores
Conservation Coalition

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