

Submitter: Christina Harrington
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2316

Dear members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2316. I am writing to urge you to vote no on this bill.

I am an Oregonian that greatly appreciates the rich natural environment, local agriculture, and open space that Oregon provides. I believe this bill will negatively affect the agricultural, forested, and public lands that sustain our communities. These bills disregard existing laws, especially our land use laws that encourage smart growth and the protection of agricultural and forest lands that Oregonians rely on for food, fiber, and jobs.

HB 2316 disregards our sensitive natural areas that Oregon has built a national reputation on. Sprawl housing development, outside UGBs on public lands, is expensive, adversely impacts natural resources, and does not meet our housing needs. We should look at surplus public lands inside UGBs for housing development – where people can walk to school, shop locally, and live within a thriving community. Lands outside our cities and towns will require significant infrastructure costs to become viable for building homes, and this bill would unnecessarily burden the state with those costs – before housing is even built. There are smarter, more affordable ways to build housing.

I grew up in Los Angeles in the 1950s and '60s and I experienced firsthand the horrific outcomes of uncontrolled urban sprawl - pollution, endless traffic, urban decay, and the destruction of so much local agriculture and open lands. Don't do that to Oregon.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for me to share my concerns. Please vote no on HB2316.