

Submitter: EMILY ZIEGLER
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4113
Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Breese Iverson and Andersen, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly oppose HB 4113.

I am an Oregon resident since 1989, and I value the conservation ethic that has long defined this state. Oregon's wildlife, farm land, forest land, and natural landscapes are not expendable assets to be traded away for short-term financial or political gain. Once these lands are compromised or destroyed, they do not come back without extraordinary effort—and in many cases, the damage is permanent.

HB 4113 would allow counties to site up to 960 housing units on as many as 250 acres outside an Urban Growth Boundary, including on farm and forest land, while exempting these developments from Oregon's statewide land use planning Goals and eliminating meaningful public participation. This directly undermines Oregon's land use system and risks violating multiple statewide Goals, including Goal 1 (Citizen Involvement), Goal 3 (Agricultural Lands), Goal 4 (Forestlands), Goal 11 (Public Facilities and Services), and Goal 14 (Urbanization).

The bill also raises serious climate, wildfire safety, and infrastructure concerns by enabling large-scale rural development that could house over 2,000 people without clear accountability for water, sewer, transportation, or emergency services.

Oregon's land use laws exist to protect the public interest and prevent irreversible harm. HB 4113 does the opposite.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 4113.

Sincerely,
Emily Ziegler

Deschutes county, OR, resident since 1989