

Submitter: Mark Hardin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing
Measure: HB4118

I oppose HB 4118 and its -1 amendment. While I see the need for adequate urban housing space, we need to retain the protection of firm urban growth boundaries and retain a careful and thorough process for considering any future expansions. Firm urban growth boundaries are needed to prevent urban sprawl and to protect existing farms and unspoiled Oregon countryside. I see no need to an overhaul of existing law.

Instead of watering down and weakening current law for urban growth boundaries, the legislature should focus on reducing barriers to the construction of needed housing within those boundaries. For example, slow, duplicative and inefficient procedures for approving proposals for new housing should be carefully reevaluated, revised, and simplified. Procedures should be changed to make it easier and less expensive to fill empty or unused urban spaces with new residences, especially for multifamily housing.