

Submitter: lynn handlin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HB3414

I am writing to you today to strongly oppose HB 3414, We need to protect natural areas throughout the state. This bill ends protection for natural areas, shade trees in cities where they are sorely needed to prevent many more deaths in the coming years from extreme heat, habitat, waterways, greenways and more. this is an environmental disaster that will make it harder to combat climate change and mitigate for climate change. It will badly impact low income communities by allowing what shade there is to be removed to make room for whatever the developers want. This will do nothing to alleviate the housing crisis, there are no guarantees that the building being done will be low income housing, in fact it is likely going to be the opposite: more high end homes and condos, which we do not need. in the area where I operate my small business in outer east Portland we are already losing too many trees, this will escalate that process.

This bill would harm wetlands which sequester carbon. It will reduce tree canopy which means more deaths during the upcoming expected heat waves. It will reduce wildlife habitat at a time when we are trying to preserve and increase habitat during this period of mass extinction.

This bill would take away the power of cities and towns to preserve green spaces. This will not make housing cheaper, it will just enrich developers.

Oregon is proud of its land use regulations which are critical for protecting our communities and environment. HB 3414 will allow housing developers virtually unlimited ability to blatantly disregard these protections.

This is a terrible, at best misguided bill that will accomplish none of the stated goals and will do great harm to communities and the environment in general.

Please stop this bill.