

Submitter: Matt Van Wey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3928

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

I am a first generation family farmer in rural, unincorporated Clackamas County that provides jobs and grows food for our community. This measure is a threat not only to my families and employee's livelihoods, but also to the livelihoods of the broader farming and working lands community. Oregon has protected and valued farmland with strong land-use laws, preserving our world-class agricultural soils and products, allowing vibrant small and mid-sized working farms to thrive in close proximity to our urban centers. This will be lost without maintaining existing, strong protections on development outside UGBs.

This measure is a gift to large developers and speculators that will out-compete those that want to work the land. No Farms = No food. A consequence of this will be a rapid loss of working lands, the further consolidation of small and mid-sized family farms to large corporate ones, more reliance on imported food, and further job losses in the agricultural and working lands sector. Frankly, I'm getting fatigued from having to offer testimony against what feels like a constant attack on land use protections.

While affordable housing is a real issue that needs to be addressed, the kind of disconnected, sprawling housing subdivisions that this measure would enable are rarely affordable and put a massive burden on infrastructure since no services are ever part of these developments. Focus on increasing density within existing UGBs or allow the UGB expansion process to operate as intended. This is not a reason to throw away 50 years of careful land use protections.

Thank you for your time in considering my testimony.