

Submitter: Joel Devalcourt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing
Measure: HB4118

I'm writing to you to ask that the Committee vote NO on HB 4118 and the -1 amendment.

As a professional planner working on both UGBs and workforce housing, I can say with absolute confidence that this bill does the wrong thing to achieve laudable housing goals. There are numerous ways that a jurisdiction can provide housing opportunities for its workforce without opening new doors to sprawl. The only time this type of workforce housing should be provided outside the UBG is with farmworker housing, which would be limited to development standards built into the rural residential zoning code.

Oregonians need more diverse and affordable housing in every neighborhood. And we need food producing-lands. It is time to call a halt to saying that to have more of one we must sacrifice the other. That's not the Oregon way — rather, we work together in good faith to find solutions. HB 4118 risks distracting all of us from taking real actions to increase diverse and affordable housing options where people need and want to live, inside UGBs — near work, school, shopping, and more. It is important for the Committee to hear that you are committed to working on meaningful housing solutions.

Thank you,
Joel Devalcourt