

Submitter: Denise Caire
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

Dear Elected Representatives and Officials,
I'm aghast at the willingness to sidestep our tried and true Land Use Goals because "it takes too much time" to follow the protocol. That is precisely why the goals have worked so well for MORE THAN 50 years. There are NO SHORTCUTS to "best practices." Noticeably ignored is goal #1 "Listen to the people."

Many folks have come to Oregon for lucrative investments in development. They want to get "rich" at the expense of everyone's livability for current and future Oregonians. They want to circumvent the "guardrails" set up to deter "southern-California SPRAWL," the reason the Land Use Goals were developed in the first place in 1972 and 1973.

Being BOLD should not mean being SHORT SIGHTED and SELF-CENTERED. Like the indigenous people's perspective, the impact on living conditions of descendant generations must be considered and given the top importance.

As the situation is today, infrastructure has fallen by the wayside. There is traffic gridlock everywhere in Hillsboro, Aloha, Beaverton, and other westside communities. Many main roads, such as Hwy. 8 (TV Hwy.), Hwy. 26 (Sunset Hwy.), Farmington Rd., Cornell Rd., Cornelius Pass Rd., Baseline Rd., Walker Rd., etc. have surpassed CARRYING CAPACITY already, and, if not, will soon do so.

Adding more UGB land will only exacerbate the overload. More roads, more houses, more cars, more POLLUTION, traffic CONGESTION, and, inevitably, more accidents and DEATHS. Instead, we need to re-zone land inside existing UGBs even though it may be more effort, time, and difficult.

The rules, similar to laws, are to be followed. The rules are not obstacles that must be cleverly "defeated," like a lock on a front door or a safe.

It appears to me that each new group of politicians wants to "make their mark with a wonderful and expensive project," without setting any money aside for maintenance and long-term repair. Just like neighborhoods from 10, 20, 30 years ago, decaying and forgotten. Maintenance of past installations are part of any closed loop.

Look at the old sewer system in need of upgrade or replacement. Repair and replacement of old systems should be more important than installing new ones in new housing/industrial tracts.

Sidewalks have so many defects that they pose an accident hazard to all who use them, especially the old, the young and those with mobility issues. How does one justify a "\$1,800,000 fancy fence on the Brookwood overpass," when there are so many sidewalks in dire need of repair? And mushrooming water/sewer rates.

Environmental Impact Statements, currently being sidestepped or given "lip service" ("That will be done later.") are REQUIRED, not optional. We're in the midst of a Climate Change Catastrophe, admit it or not.

We are witnessing the shift of climate, animals, and plant growing cycles. Over the last 20, 30, 10 years, our seasons have shifted. Native animals have moved north to be in the climate for which they are best suited, and plants now bloom earlier or not at all. Which also means our planting/harvesting cycles are impacted. These changes are easily observable.

Environmental Impact Statements must be researched, developed, mitigated, and implemented to have the most impact in a crisis we must address, impede, and reverse to have any hope of saving Mother Earth, our home.

Why aren't we reusing the vacant malls, parking lots, and converting those tracts into affordable homes? Infrastructure exists, roads, water, sewer, electricity. That "dirt" has already been paved over. It will never be uncovered and recovered to farm again.

I read that Washington County has lost 25% of farm land in the last 10 years (per Tualatin Valley Water Resources). ONCE the land gets "dozed," we will never be able to farm food on it again. What will we tell our children and grandchildren about "why" we developed structures when we KNEW we were paving over rich farm soil at an unsustainable rate?

Do the right thing,
Denise Caire