



Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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June 8, 2023

Chair Fahey and Committee Members
House Rules Committee
900 Court St. NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Oppose the -17 Amendment to HB 3414

Dear Chair Fahey and Committee Members,

The original intent of HB 3424 keeps getting farther away from being a workable solution as the Governor intended. With the -17 amendment HB 3414 will bring added pressure to agriculture. It is always cheaper to build out on agricultural grounds than to in-fill in existing UBGs. The -17 amendment is an attempt to circumvent Goal 14 and Goal 3.

Taking more agricultural lands out of production degrades the infrastructure needed for agriculture and increases the conflicts.

One key point is that this new amendment does not appear to address is the funding needs for new upgrades for sewers, sidewalks, roads, etc. for addressing housing. Goal 14 is a process that needs to be followed to make the best use of existing UBGs and is meant protect agriculture (Goal 3). Goal 14 needs to be followed to focus on siting affordable housing within UBGs where the needed services and jobs exist.

It is **“always, just a one-time exception”** when it comes to expanding out into agricultural lands. You already have done this for the semi-conductor bill. Please vote the -17 amendment down. Please recognize that agriculture is important to Oregon and agricultural lands are precious and can't be replaced once they are gone. Having this bill move forward with the -17 amendment will harm agriculture. Oregon Farm Bureau, which we are a member of, has clear policy (3.800) opposing the dash -17 amendment in our opinion.

Sincerely,

Mickey Killingsworth

Mickey Killingsworth
Secretary-Treasurer
Jefferson County Farm Bureau
503.250.2460

Home of North Unit Irrigation District