

Submitter: Robin Vora
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2316
To Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Committee
Members:
Oregon House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

I urge you to oppose HB 2316-1, which would allow housing development on state-owned lands outside urban growth boundaries. While affordable and middle-income housing, and homelessness, are certainly major issues in Oregon, we should not sacrifice Oregon's forests, farms, wildlife habitat and valued open space on state lands to alleviate this problem. We should not circumvent Oregon's land use laws and planning guidelines.

State lands are also valuable local recreation resources and wildlife habitat and should be retained for that purpose, and not be sold or developed for other purposes, such as the school fund, which is an archaic purpose that needs to be changed. This is especially true in more urbanized counties, or ones trending that way, such as Deschutes County where I live. For example, mule deer continue to decline in Central Oregon with increased urbanization, vehicle traffic and poaching..

Promoting development outside of cities will increase the cost of medical services, greenhouse gas emissions, the risk of wildfire, and strain rural infrastructure. Creating enclaves of low- and moderate-income residents disconnects these people from jobs, schools, and essential services. It will be more expensive than providing these services within a city. We need more affordable housing and complete mixed income communities within existing cities with ready access to services, jobs and public transit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.