

Submitter: Lauren Creany
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.

While the bill has positive intent, it will not have the desired impact of providing workforce housing, and it will be complicated to administer and harmful to farmland.

HB 4118 provides that a private landowner may request that a city expand its urban growth boundary (UGB) into a city's urban reserve, by up to 100 acres for "workforce housing" and/or "workforce commercial" uses without going through the land use planning process. This would circumvent the public process by which urban reserves were designated; it would require cities to set up new, expensive structures to enforce "work force housing" restrictions; and it has unrealistic infrastructure provisions, among other things.

The -1 amendment would entirely replace HB 4118 with a new concept, which could have an even more widespread and adverse impact on UGBs. The -1 amendment is here.

Oregonians need more diverse and affordable housing in every neighborhood. And we need food producing-lands. These two goals do not need to be at odds with each other. I know we can 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.

Thank you,
Lauren Creany