



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

February 11, 2022

House Committee On Housing
Rep. Julie Fahey, Chair
Rep. Winsvey Campos, Vice-Chair
Rep. Lily Morgan, Vice-Chair

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association on HB 4118

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Campos and Morgan, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) does not support the passage of HB 4118, as introduced and with the proposed -1 amendments. OAPA is a nonprofit membership organization of over 800 planners that works to create sustainable and vibrant Oregon communities through professional development; advocacy for sound planning; providing resources to meet the challenges of growth and change; and embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity.

HB 4118 does not address a problem that actually exists with respect to expansion of urban growth boundaries (UGBs). For context, over the last ten years, several cities such as Bend, Eugene, Springfield, and McMinnville have expanded their UGBs. The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) reports that from 2016 through 2021, cities filed 37 comprehensive plan amendments to adjust their UGBs. Of those, only two plan amendments were not approved, resulting in 35 successful UGB adjustments. This data suggests that major change is not necessary (See https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/UP/Documents/UGB_Amendments_2016-2021.pdf.)

The proposed -1 amendments propose formation of a Task Force on Barriers to Housing, Industrial, and Manufacturing Development that does not identify any barriers that require a task force to be formed. Previous advisory committees have been formed to address UGB expansions resulting in more clarity and less legal risk to the process. For example, DLCD convened a rulemaking advisory committee (RAC) between 2013 and 2015 to develop administrative rules to implement 2013 HB 2254, a bill that described a simplified UGB expansion method. A subsequent RAC was convened to development rules to implement 2016 HB 4079 regarding UGB expansions for affordable housing. It's unclear what issues regarding UGB expansion need to be solved by the Legislature forming another task force.

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Oregon Chapter President
Aaron Ray, AICP



There is no clear need for HB 4118, as introduced and as amended. OAPA recommends the bill Not Pass out of committee. Thank you for your time and attention to our testimony regarding HB 4118.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Ray'.

Aaron Ray, AICP, President
Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eunice Kim'.

Eunice Kim, AICP, Chair
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee