

Submitter: Marcy Setniker
On Behalf Of: Washington county farmland
Committee: House Committee On Housing
Measure: HB4118

I register my opposition to HB 4118 as a housing solution.

There are too many problems with the -1 Amendment. It is too wide in scope to be effectively implemented and will only distract all of us from working together to bring about real change that benefits all Oregonians. In addition, since this bill would circumvent existing public process, the task force wording and purpose must be articulated more transparently to the larger public, to us, the regular Oregon citizens.

Advancing this bill also goes against long-held Oregon values that protect our farm and forest lands. Such lands are ever-increasing in their value as allies to address the climate crisis in which each and all of us now live. Pitting our state's current and dire need for housing against Oregon's long heritage of farm and forest is bad public policy. It is not the Oregon way.

Housing policy must focus on more diverse and affordable options inside UGBs, so people can live where they want to—near work, school, shopping, and more. This also can maximize public transit use in urban areas as a responsible transportation choice, again, in this critical time.

Our decisions today will have lasting impacts. What once seemed like separate issues is now a mass of interconnected realities.

This is the time to work together in good faith toward real and meaningful housing policy—and—to continue to carefully protect Oregon's farms and forests. With your honest and forward-looking leadership we can have both.

HB 4118 and the -1 Amendment is not the only approach.

Sincerely
Marcy L Setniker