

Submitter: Amy Houchen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing
Measure: HB4118

I urge you to oppose HB 4118 and the proposed amendment -1.

Oregon has a long, proud history of land use planning. It provides a process for assessing land protection and development so that, for instance, we don't build all over the Willamette Valley's floor from the Coast Range to the Cascades, as tempting as such "shovel-ready" land may look to developers.

We can have both housing and land use protection, but not by circumventing the established procedures. HB 4118 carves out an exception that requires local governments to develop and implement a new, one-off procedure at the behest of a private property owner. This is not the Oregon way. The proposed amendment -1 sets up a short-term task force given far too many issues to fully research, consider and resolve, again in an attempt to avoid established procedures.

What we need is to work with current land use laws, and look within urban growth boundaries (UGBs) for opportunities to provide more affordable housing, which need not be new single-family suburbs.