

Submitter: Ron Bunch
On Behalf Of: sElf
Committee: House Committee On Housing
Measure: HB4118

I urge the House Committee to vote no on HB 4118 and the -1 amendment for the following reasons:

HB 4118 proposes to by-pass the state's land use planning process to expand urban growth boundaries. This negates local government control and nullifies the financial and political investments local governments made to adopt their land use plans and implementing measures.

It unnecessarily creates conflict between statewide planning goals preserving farmland and providing housing.

It is impractical. in particular it has unrealistic infrastructure provisions and would be an expensive administrative and governance burden for local governments. it would not work to create the amount and type needed housing to resolve Oregon's Housing problems. There are better and less disruptive ways to do so.

Amendment -1:

Oddly Amendment -1 seems to replace HB 4118 with a new concept by creating a "Task Force on Barriers to Housing Industrial and Manufacturing Development" and then directing it to make a report by the end of 2022 to the OR Legislature. The task-force's charge contains a grab-bag of issues and there is no way that it could adequately report on them in such a short period of time. Each of the issues it proposes to address would merit its own task force. The Task Force appears to have a narrow special interest approach. Thus raises the concern there is more interest in real investment opportunities and short cutting land use requirements than there is proposing solutions to Oregon's housing problems.

Instead of proposing thoughtful and collaborative solutions HB 4118 and Amendment-1 is a distraction to addressing the full scope of Oregon's housing issues and their underlying causes. Whenever possible, affordable housing opportunities must be provided within urban growth boundaries near services, work, school, shopping, and other places that contribute to a high quality of life. Also, I acknowledge the need for habitable, affordable housing in rural areas and existing unincorporate (designated census areas). Let's not lose focus on addressing this need as well. Thank you. Ron Bunch.