



February 14, 2022

Chair Julie Fahey
House Committee on Housing
State Capitol - Salem, OR

Re: Opposition to HB 4118 and the -1 amendment

Dear Chair Fahey and members of the committee,

The American Farmland Trust is a national organization that has had a presence in the Pacific Northwest for over 20 years. We register our opposition to HB 4118 and the -1 amendment.

Oregon has been a national leader in the protection of its agricultural heritage and irreplaceable farmland. The unique statewide land use system has been its greatest strength in maintaining this legacy for future generations. Our [Farms Under Threat](#) research ranked Oregon as the highest in the nation for wise land-use planning policies that prioritize the protection of farmland.

HB 4118 chips away at the foundation of this system by undermining the process intended to ensure the best possible outcomes for Oregon's land use planning goals. The proposed amendment would attempt to address a complex set of issues through a narrow lens, lacking the perspective of the needs of agriculture.

Oregon should stay focused on policies that direct new housing into areas already developed, close to existing infrastructure and services.

Sincerely,

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