

Submitter: Rachel Cody
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

Hello,

I oppose the dash-17 amendment to HB 3414. Rezone land inside UGBs to allow more housing and to remove unnecessary local barriers to development. This is more difficult politically, but necessary if we are to keep our magnificent open spaces and profitable farm lands. Convert the abundant underused land inside our UGBs to housing. For example, currently, we have more parking spaces for cars than we have housing for people, yet we have vast areas of underused parking lots and strip malls. We must make it easy to convert those to housing. Reduce barriers to building housing inside UGBs that is dense and near transit. Developers don't fail to build inside UGBs because of a lack of space per se; they don't build because there is a lack of space that makes financial sense.

Flouting the UGBs will undo Oregon's extraordinary heritage of land preservation coexisting alongside vibrant urban areas, make it harder to address climate change, and increase fire risk. Paving over more lands, adding more roads, and expanding into the wildland-urban interface will only increase these problems.

Sincerely,
Rachel Cody