

Submitter: Gaabriel Becket
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

I unreservedly oppose bypassing our state land-use laws to allow increases in the urban growth boundaries of our towns and cities. We must preserve our arable agricultural lands and wilderness, we don't have enough of either and they are too valuable to throw away for an ill-planned, short-term fix to a problem which isn't being looked at clearly. A better solution would be make use of land already within most urban growth boundaries that isn't being put to best use - such as abandoned shopping malls, big box stores and their massive parking lots which are acres of wasted, open hardscape. Additionally, I think a greater problem than lack of housing in Oregon is lack of AFFORDABLE housing. "Market rate" is not affordable to most people. I read that Portland has approximately 5,000 homeless people and approximately 5,000 empty apartments. I don't believe we need more luxury apartments and luxury homes, we need more apartments people can afford to live in. We need real urban and land use planning, not this knee-jerk, quick fix, non-solution that I sincerely believe will damage our state.

Please vote NO on HB 3414 and protect Oregon, Oregon lands and Oregonians!