

Submitter: Cassie Wilson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

I oppose the dash-17 amendment which would subvert Oregon's land use goals. The urban growth boundary is not the cause of the housing shortage, and furthering sprawl in Oregon will not help with housing affordability or meeting people's needs. We have underused land within our urban growth boundaries that should be converted to housing. Why are there more homes (parking spaces) for cars than homes for people? We cannot continue to pave over our state and should better utilize the land which already exists within UGBs. We can't afford to maintain the infrastructure we already have, so sprawling further out will not help. It will put people closer to the wildland-urban interface, increasing the risks which come with ever increasing wildfires. It will lead to people commuting even farther for work and school - hurting their pocket books, our climate, and our overall transportation system.

I agree that we need to use many different approaches to address the housing shortage and affordability crisis in our state, but trying to skirt our land use system is not the answer. If a UGB truly needs to be expanded, then jurisdictions can go through normal processes to do so.

We are lucky to have our land use system. It preserves farmland, makes it easier to establish healthy and vibrant communities, and ensures our beautiful state isn't needlessly overtaken by suburban sprawl. Let's keep it that way.