

Submitter: Christine Cook
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

I am a 34-year resident of Oregon, I raised my children here, and I have practiced land use law in this area for 31 years. I strongly urge the committee to vote down this extremely ill-advised proposal. First, no homebuilder is interested in a UGB expansion to build affordable housing. The likelihood that any affordable housing would result from these lawless expansions is very low. Instead, valuable non-urban land at city borders would be irrevocably transformed into exurbia. Second, plenty of underutilized land inside UGB's could be developed for housing without enlarging UGB's. Think of declining strip malls, office buildings, and their accompanying parking lots. Finally, who will pay to develop the urban infrastructure for these newly urbanized areas? If money is available to fund transportation, power, water, park, sewer, stormwater, law enforcement, school systems, telecommunications, and capital development for new urban areas, why do existing urban areas need funding to operate, maintain, and update their systems? Existing systems in existing urban areas should be adequately funded before new areas are added, each of which will require its own urban services and facilities. There is no need for this end-run around Oregon's land use laws. Please vote no on HB 3414.

Thank you,
Christine M.Cook
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