

Submitter: Corinne Sherton
On Behalf Of: Self and Dennis Martin
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

We oppose the dash-17 amendments to HB 3414 because they would subvert Land Use Goal 14, the essential component of Oregon's land use system that requires cities to establish and maintain Urban Growth Boundaries (UGBs) and prevents the sprawl that Oregonians agree we're better off without.

The dash-17 amendments would allow local governments to once again avoid rezoning land already inside UGBs – the politically more difficult, but necessary, action – to allow more housing and to remove unnecessary local barriers to housing development. With 70 percent of all residential lands within UGBs zoned for detached single-family housing – the most expensive and land-consuming type of housing – we can and must build better inside our UGBs, by allowing more housing types and more affordable housing.

The dash-17 amendments also continue to ignore a major barrier to more diverse and affordable housing inside UGBs: lack of funding for infrastructure. Our communities already have a backlog of needs for new and upgraded sewers, water systems, sidewalks, and more. We have collectively failed to invest in needed infrastructure. Adding more land would only exacerbate this challenge.

Finally, making it easier to expand UGBs outward makes it harder to address climate change and to reduce wildfire risk. Paving over more land, adding more roads, and expanding into the resource land/wildland-urban interface will only increase these problems.