

Submitter: Olga Russell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

As a resident of inner Southeast Portland from 1974-1980 and now from 2019-to the present, I oppose the rash action of weakening Oregon's urban growth boundaries. Portland has gone downhill, not improved, in livability from 1980 to my return here in 2019, in the following ways that this UGB-weakening measure would only distract from:

- an explosion in gun ownership and use for illegal purposes, and consequent rise in deaths of many children and adults by those wielding guns, including military assault weapons;
- drivers and motorcyclists racing nightly after dark, such as down 52nd Ave, not stopping for lights and stop signs, gunning motors without mufflers, polluting the air with foul smoke, threatening without police intervention;
- pitch-dark neighborhoods where street lights are far apart;
- numerous deep potholes, on both "improved" and "unimproved" streets;
- repeated vandalism and theft of hardware shops, grocery stores, and pharmacies;
- unbridled distribution of crazy-making, death-dealing illegal drugs like fentanyl.

First overcome these societal ills, and make humane use of empty strip malls and parking lots. Then we can talk about building outward—when our society deserves to expand.