

Submitter: Robert Emmons
On Behalf Of: LandWatch Lane County
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3414

To: House Committee on Rules
Re: HB3414 -17 amendment

Committee Members:

Please accept the following comments on behalf of LandWatch Lane County, a non-profit that for over 25 years has been working to protect our rural lands.

In the zeal to meet the mandate for more housing HB 3414 provides a field day for developers by eliminating the environmental protections and orderly development provisions of SB 100. Variances would allow the eradication and function of trees, wetlands, floodplains and habitat necessary for a healthy ecology and a sane populace. And allowing an expansion of our UGBs would subvert the purpose and accomplishment of Goal 14 to contain development within boundaries and would further erode the protection of our farm and forest lands, natural areas and open space.

Ample opportunity for housing development exists within UGBs in underused or abandoned buildings and overbuilt and underused parking lots and strip malls. In contrast easing the restrictions on building outside UGBs will, among other immediate impacts, increase fire risk and global warming.

We urge you to vigorously oppose this exploitative, self-serving and irresponsible bill.

Thank you.

Robert Emmons, President
LandWatch Lane County