



To: House Rules
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon

June 8, 2023

Re: Testimony in opposition to HB 3414 with the -17 or -19 amendments

Testimony Submitted On behalf of all the OCN Member Organizations:

1000 Friends of Oregon, Association of Oregon Recyclers, Audubon Society of Portland, Beyond Toxics, Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Food Safety, Central Oregon LandWatch, Climate Solutions, Defenders of Wildlife, Deschutes River Alliance, Engineers for a Sustainable Future, The Environmental Center, Environment Oregon, Food & Water Watch, Friends of Mount Hood, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Friends of Family Farmers, Greater Hells Canyon Council, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Native Fish Society, Neighbors for Clean Air, Oceana, Oregon Coast Alliance, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Land and Water Alliance, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, Oregon Wild, Renewable Northwest, Rogue Riverkeeper, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, The Street Trust, Surfrider Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Tualatin Riverkeepers, WaterWatch of Oregon, The Wetlands Conservancy, Wild Salmon Center, Zero Coalition

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Kropf and Breese-Iverson, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer input on the -19 amendments to HB 3414. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and the Oregon Conservation Network's strong opposition to passing HB 3414 with the -19 amendments. The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV). It is a network of 42 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy.

While we and our member organizations are deeply committed to addressing Oregon's housing crisis—we see it as a climate, justice, and quality of life issue that is crucial to address for all Oregonians—we are disappointed to see this last minute amendment that seems predicated on

the idea that UGBs and goal 14 are somehow a barrier to building urgently needed housing in Oregon. Especially when there is data and experts from the state that say we have the land we need within UGBs to address our housing shortage.

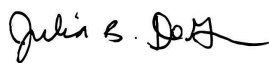
The process of bringing this amendment at the last minute to a bill that we and so many of our partners have worked so hard to get to a compromise on in the -14, and now -18 amendments is profoundly concerning and disappointing. This is why the OCN groups who have been diligently working on HB 3414 to make it as good as possible, have supported a process to **make HB 3414 with the -17 and -19 amendments an OCN major threat to a healthy Oregon if those amendments are adopted.**

We see these amendments as unnecessary given all the processes from recently passed legislation in the works to make it easier to build housing within UGBs, and to create more urban reserves. This amendment will not help expediently bring much needed affordable housing to Oregonians any time soon, if ever. We need to see more investment in infrastructure and services within UGBs, not an expansion of UGBs without following the existing process under current Oregon law.

We are also concerned about the climate and wildfire implications of building more homes outside of the UGBs. Having more homes sprawling outside of UGBs puts more people and property at risk of wildfires, and increases driving and other negative impacts to climate change. We need more investment in infrastructure within UGBs, and to follow through on processes put underway by recently and soon to be passed legislation—not to simply allow one time expansions of UGBs. For all these reasons we urge you to reject the -19 amendments to HB 3414 and to pass either the -14 or -18 version of this bill if this bill is to move forward instead.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Julia B. DeGraw
Coalition Director
Oregon Conservation Network, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters