



March 29th, 2023

TO: Chair Dexter and Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Michael Burdick  
RE: AOC support for HB 3197

Dear Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to express AOC's support for HB 3197.

Under Oregon land use law, most residential development is supposed to happen inside of a community's urban growth boundary (UGB). Residential development outside of a UGB is typically subject to restrictions meant to balance community development needs with the need to protect various types of natural resource lands surrounding it, such as farmlands, forestlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat, etc.

Minimizing adverse impacts to adjacent natural resource lands is best managed through the use of subjective standards and the professional judgment of subject-matter experts, and this is the way that most local governments have historically regulated residential development outside UGBs.

HB 3197 fixes an unintended consequence of legislation passed in 2017 which emerged as a result of an unexpected interpretation of statute. If HB 3197 doesn't pass, counties will be required to update development codes in a way that isn't necessary or appropriate, a process that will cost counties money without achieving anything worthwhile.

Best,

Michael Burdick