

Submitter: John White  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB3197

April 26, 2023

To: House Committee on Rules

RE: HB 3197

Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee:

Applying the "clear and objective" standards of ORS 197.307 to areas outside of urban growth boundaries would restrict local officials from using their judgement in protecting natural spaces, farms and forests. Incrementally, natural resources such as water quality and wildlife habitat are being degraded by environmental fragmentation. Counties are able to protect those resources by using professional and balanced judgement. Decisions arrived in this manner do not always meet the "clear and objective" standards of ORS 197.307 but are necessary where there is competition between a residence and natural resources.

Supporting HB 3197 gives counties the flexibility they need to maintain a healthy environment.

Thank you.

John White  
Creswell