



Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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Madras, Oregon 97741
Phone 503/250/2460**

February 20, 2024

Chair Fahey and Committee Members
House Rules Committee
900 Court St. NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Oppose the -1 Amendment to HB 4026

Dear Chair Fahey and Committee Members,

Jefferson County Farm Bureau is a member of the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) and there is clear OFBF policy (13.135) supporting the initiative/referendum process. As a county farm bureau, we oppose the dash one amendment to HB 4026.

The original intent of HB 4026 was to look at Oregon's elections, etc.... not to stifle citizen input and take away the tools that the initiative petition and referendum process provides to every citizen at the local level.

This isn't about land use, even though it appears to be so when reading the letters in support and opposition. It is about **the voice of citizens** and a process/tool that Oregon has been so proud of that it has set us apart from other states.

One key point is that this amendment is not needed with SB 1537 and SB 1530 moving forward. No matter what happens at the May election for North Plains the process allowed in SB 1537 will allow that city an outright urban growth boundary expansion. To repeat, "this bill with the dash one amendment is not needed".

Please, do not take away a tool that everyday citizens may chose to use to express their concerns when they feel that their local government is not listening to them.

Sincerely,

Mickey Killingsworth

Mickey Killingsworth
Secretary-Treasurer
Jefferson County Farm Bureau
503.250.2460

Cc Vanek and Harris

Home of North Unit Irrigation District