

Submitter: Aaron Cooke
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4026

The dash 1 amendment to this bill may be one of the most undemocratic measures to be heard in Oregon in recent history. The goal of this amendment is to deny citizens of a vehicle to check elected officials when oppositional testimony is ignored. The process for UGB expansion in local venues can already be inordinately driven by developers and speculators with resources, and process knowledge. Local citizens deserve the right to exercise their vote in the wake of officials deeming special interests' opinions over the people.

Local officials currently can disregard the testimony of citizens and referendum may be the last resort to check executive overreach. Developers and land speculators have resources to influence decisions in ways that greatly outweigh citizens. They are often not even from the community in question. Oregon has pioneered the idea that citizens can call a vote to affect change in their government. Do not deny them this right by accepting the dash 1 amendment, or proceeding with this bill if it promotes these undemocratic concepts.