



## Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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March 05, 2024

Chair Lieber and Committee Members  
Senate Rules Committee  
900 Court St. NE Salem, Oregon 97301

### Oppose the -1 Amendment to HB 4026

Dear Chair Lieber 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. We can't see how the relating clause with HB 4026 and the dash one amendment are compatible.

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. In Jefferson County it has been used to stop a pipeline location and in Crook County to stop having more destination resorts sited in limited water areas. You are opening a pandora's box if you take this right away from the Oregon citizens.

A question that hopefully will be asked today is "what is the result of a win by the citizens of North Plains, if the referendum process is allowed to continue?"

**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 choose to use to express their concerns when they feel that their local government is not listening to them. At the very least refer this to the voters of Oregon so they can decide if they want to lose this right.**

Sincerely,

*Mickey Killingsworth*

Mickey Killingsworth  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Jefferson County Farm Bureau

Cc Vanek and Harris

***Home of North Unit Irrigation District***