

Submitter: Karon Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2316

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2316.

I oppose this bill because it overrides all land use laws to open up publicly owned lands outside UGBs to sprawling, expensive development. Any such developments will need the full complement of infrastructure: roads, sewer, electricity, water. It proposes that the State, i.e., us taxpayers, pay for it! Why should we do that when adequate infrastructure is already built within existing urban growth boundaries?

I live in Bend, which has two excellent examples of how this process should work. The Bend-LaPine School District is having a hard time securing employees because of the high cost of housing here. So, the School District recently sold 1.1 acres of the Silver Rail Elementary School grounds, and 2.1 acres of Summit High School grounds, to Habitat for Humanity, which is going to build affordable homes for school employees to purchase. Both these locations are within the Bend city limits and already have full access to necessary utilities.

Sincerely,
Karon Johnson