

Submitter: Rex Parks Sr  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Hunters Association Bend Chapter  
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2316  
To Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members:

I strongly request that you oppose HB 2316-1, which would allow housing development on state-owned lands outside urban growth boundaries (UGBs) by designating them as "Home Start Lands."

I am well aware of the need to seek solutions to Oregon's housing shortage, however, this bill, as written, is counter to Oregon's cherished land use planning system, and creates multiple concerns about responsible land use, infrastructure costs, and the well-being of Oregon communities.

Circumventing Land Use Protections – HB 2316-1 overrides critical state and local land use laws, including protections for natural resources. It gives the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) discretion to designate lands as "Home Start Lands," even if they serve important conservation or public purposes. Allowing development on lands managed by ODF, ODFW, DSL, ODOT, and OPRD undermines the very safeguards that protect Oregon's natural heritage. Promoting development outside of cities and their infrastructure will decrease wildlife habitat during a time when the mule deer population in Oregon is approaching a crisis stage. Allowing structures to be built on lands that generationally have been the home to our limited wildlife, will only accelerate the decline in the mule deer population. Our mule deer and other wildlife need to have their habitat protected from further encroachments. The passage of this bill is not the Oregon way.

This proposal does not provide a sustainable or equitable solution to Oregon's housing challenges. I respectfully urge the Committee to reject this bill as written and consider ways focused within current UGBs to promote affordable housing within well-planned, connected communities.

Sincerely,

Rex E Parks Sr  
President, Oregon Hunters Association, Bend Chapter