

Submitter: Christine Larson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3928

This bill would give counties the authority to approve development in farmland and rural areas. If a council is pro-development, it could lead to the destruction of entire counties without consideration for the consequences. Farmland must be protected because farmers rely on it to produce food locally for consumers. Eliminating farms undermines the local market and threatens livelihoods. Residential development consumes the essential resources that farmers need, such as water and land. Currently, farmers in Bend are already competing for water.

Our wells are running dry, and water for crops and livestock has been significantly restricted. Despite this, we have commissioners who are pro-development, pushing for a "resort" that is exempt from zoning regulations. This is a troubling situation, especially since testimony from citizens, Landwatch, Indian tribes, and even Water Resources is being disregarded by two of the commissioners. This is a clear example of what could happen if this bill is passed.

Citizens move to rural areas to escape urban development, and it is disheartening to think that such development could compromise their lifestyle. A visit to Arizona. Please keep the country, country, and encourage growth within current cities and towns.

Christine Larson
Bend, OR
Brookslarson1205@gmail.com
503-709-5572