

Submitter: Robert L and Gretchen Pederson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3928

We are opposed to HB 3928, which would allow counties to designate an unlimited amount of rural land, outside UGBs, for sprawling residential development.

Passage of this bill would result in a loss of precious farm and forest land.

There has already been a dramatic loss of wildlife habitat. Elk, deer, and numerous other species rely on rural lands as more and more native ecosystems are developed. HB 3928 conflicts with Goal 5, which protects natural resources, scenic and historic areas, open spaces, and wildlife habitat.

Additional development in rural lands would increase fire danger and add new stresses to depleted water supplies. There would be increased demands on emergency response teams and road maintenance needs.

There is a shortage of housing in Oregon, but this bill is misdirected in helping with this problem. Growth should be concentrated within urban growth boundaries where there are services, public transportation, and employment opportunities nearby.

Please protect Oregon's cherished land use system by soundly rejecting HB 3928.

Sincerely,
Robert and Gretchen Pederson
Deschutes County residents