

Date: March 31, 2025

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: Jim Gilbert – Owner, Northwoods Nursery

Subject: Please oppose House Bill 3928

Dear Chair Marsh and members of the Committee,

I am writing to request your opposition to HB 3928. Oregon has a long history of smart, land use planning, providing for compact growth within our cities and towns, while protecting our fertile farmland from urban sprawl and other incompatible development. While providing affordable housing is essential, it is most efficiently done within existing Urban Growth Boundaries, which can be expanded if necessary. Such compact, urban development is much more efficient, closer to existing sewer facilities, water supplies and other infrastructure. It also provides for more efficient transportation, an important issue in dealing with the effects of climate change.

Agriculture is the second largest sector in Oregon's economy, bringing billions of dollars into our state and providing many thousands of jobs. Our land use planning program has played a very important role in its success. Haphazard development conflicts with farming practices, increases traffic on rural roads and raises the price of farmland, making it more difficult for young farmers to succeed.

Our productive and irreplaceable farmland is an important natural resource for our state. Please support Oregon agriculture and smart and efficient development and oppose HB 3928!

Thank you,

Jim Gilbert
Northwoods Nursery
28696 S Cramer Rd
Molalla, OR 97038
Jim@northwoodsnursery.com
503-502-6925

PS: Please go to www.anoregonstory.com to watch a documentary film I helped make, which tells the amazing story of how Governor Tom McCall and many other farsighted and dedicated Oregonians created our unique land-use planning program.