

Submitter: John Livingston

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3928

I am opposed to HB 3928, which would allow counties to designate an unlimited amount of rural land, outside UGBs, for sprawling residential development. The negative consequences that would result from HB 3928 are very bad for our state. Urbanization will result in loss of farm and forest land. Opening new expanses of rural lands for residential development would exacerbate a trend creating unnecessary conflicts to farm and forest operators and further drive up the costs of farm and forest land, making it even more difficult for new operators to begin and for existing operators to expand. It would degrade wildlife habitat by reducing food and historical migration for Oregon's elk, mule deer, antelope, and bird species that depend on rural land for their entire lives. HB 3928 aims to allow extensive development on all rural lands, including those that are protected under Goal 5, which protects natural resources, scenic and historic areas, open spaces, and wildlife habitat. Further expanding development into rural lands would unnecessarily put more Oregonians at risk of wildfire. This bill would increase both wildfire hazard and wildfire risk for rural communities.

I am really concerned about air quality degradation. A core tenet of Oregon's visionary land use planning system is to concentrate growth within urban growth boundaries. Accommodating population growth in compact urban land use patterns reduces vehicle miles traveled and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, it helps preserve rural livelihoods and productive local agricultural economies.

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