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House Committee on Rules  
Via: Email-Written Testimony Submission Form

Dear Representatives Bowman, Drazen, Pham, Davis, Elmer, Kropf, and Valerrama,

I am writing to request that you do not move forward with HB3499, Relating to Urban Renewal.

Urban renewal plans are vital to providing future livability to communities throughout Oregon. This allows blighted and developing areas to have funding to provide housing and economic development.

As I am sure you are all aware, Oregon is in the midst of a severe housing crisis and it is vital that everything possible is done to avoid impeding the ability to increase the state's housing inventory.

With a population of 27,000, Tualatin alone has a shortage of 4,300 housing units. We have taken steps to remedy this with our Basalt Creek Urban Renewal District where we have added over 400 housing units and we look to add more housing in our Core Area Urban Renewal District. If HB 3499 were in place, this may not have happened. At best, this measure would have added an exorbitant amount of work for our city staff, who already have limited time available.

The process for adding an Urban Renewal District is already onerous, with the need to obtain agreement from the overlaying governmental entities, such as the county and fire district. Requiring a general election vote would only complicate matters and increase costs. With every level of government in Oregon, our residents, and our businesses under increasing budget restrictions, it makes no sense to add another costly and cumbersome step to this process.

Thank you for your consideration.

  
Valerie Pratt  
Tualatin City Council President