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March 31, 2025

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 2647A

Chair Pham, Vice, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2647-A.

Central Oregon LandWatch is a land use and conservation advocacy organization that has proudly protected Central Oregon's forests, high deserts, rivers, wildlife, and vibrant communities for more than 35 years. The membership of Central Oregon LandWatch consists of farmers, ranchers, environmentalists, hunters, anglers, housing advocates, and community leaders. Our members share the belief that Oregon's land use system is fundamental to what makes this state such a special place to live.

HB 2647-A would facilitate an urban growth boundary (UGB) amendment specific to the City of Monmouth. LandWatch opposes this UGB amendment on procedural grounds. Oregon has a well-established process for amending UGBs, guided by Goal 14 of the statewide land use planning system, and that is based on need for land to accommodate forecast population growth. This process requires the consideration of alternative UGB boundary locations and also ensures full public participation throughout the process. *Existing state law, at OAR 660-024-0070, also allows for UGB "swaps" that would facilitate what appear to be goals of the -3's proponents.* HB 2647-A as written would sidestep all this process and allow the legislature to determine the location of the Monmouth UGB by fiat. Doing so would unnecessarily sidestep Oregon land use law to give special treatment to one of Oregon's 241 incorporated cities.

The substance of the proposed UGB amendment in HB 2647-A may have merit, but that is for the existing UGB amendment process to determine. LandWatch opposes HB 2647-A as written and we respectfully request this Committee not pass it out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Regards,

Rory Isbell
Rural Lands Program Director & Staff Attorney
Central Oregon LandWatch



WE DEFEND AND PLAN FOR CENTRAL OREGON'S LIVABLE FUTURE



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