

Submitter: Donna Harris
On Behalf Of: Individual
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4113

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Breese Iverson and Andersen, and Committee members:

HB 4113 would allow a county to site up to 960 units of housing on up to 250 acres outside a UGB somewhere in the state, including on farm and forest land.

This bill contains several concerning elements.

The development would be exempt from compliance with Oregon land use law, including all of the statewide land use planning Goals, and it provides for no public participation in the county siting/approval process.

The county sprawl the bill would allow is likely to violate one or more of Goal 1 (Citizen Involvement), Goal 2 (Land Use Planning), Goal 3 (Agricultural Lands), Goal 4 (Forestlands), Goal 11 (Public Facilities and Services), and Goal 14 (Urbanization). Oregon does not look like places in mid and southern CA where suburban sprawl is the norm . Oregon's strong land use laws are the only legal means of accomplishing this goal of preventing housing spread beyond urban growth boundaries into land either meant for farming or for public use to be shared by all citizens. Do not tweak or mess with these land use goals as we have witnessed before in Deschutes Co. where obvious breaking of the laws of land use (in particular Goal 5) was evident in allowing conduction of church venues in habitat reserved for winter deer range where it had been previously prohibited BY LAW!

There are serious climate and wildfire safety issues related to creating a new development that could house over 2,000 people on rural lands outside of cities. There are also unresolved questions about city and county roles and obligations related to impacts to existing water, sewer and transportation infrastructure and providing new services, access and infrastructure.

I've appreciated this opportunity to weigh in and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Donna Harris