

Submitter: Sue Kelso-Haines
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4113
Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Breese Iverson and Andersen, and Committee members:

I OPPOSE HB 4113 which would allow a county to site up to 960 units of housing on up to 250 acres OUTSIDE of a UGB somewhere in the state, including on farm and forest land. Allowing development in these areas brings sprawl, roads, etc. - the likes of which we have way too much of. Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB) should be respected and kept in tact. Farming, forest, recreational activities, etc. are fast disappearing and very sadly so are wildlife populations. More roads bring more hazards for wildfires. This area of the country is different than most. It is beautiful and lacks the urban sprawl the green lighting of this project will bring. (Build a hotel, you need a gas station then a store, etc. Pretty soon it's filled with sprawl.) Besides the beauty and wildlife present, this area in itself brings in great economic gain to surrounding communities with its vast recreational opportunities. This project focuses on the desire of one developer. This is wrong.

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 many of the goals formerly laid out: citizen involvement, land use planning, agricultural, forest lands, public facilities and services and urbanization.

Please don't allow HB4113 to chip away at yet another amazing, beautiful area of the country and the wildlife who call it home. Keeping our planet and any area on it healthy for the humans who live there involves a healthy ecosystem. We are part of nature; it is part of us. Development and sprawl do not belong outside of the UGB.
Sincerely,

<Your name>