

Submitter: John Weigant  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 4153

TO: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

FROM: John Weigant, 18989 NE Marine Drive #15, Portland, Oregon 97230

DATE: Feb 9, 2026

SUBJ: Table HB 4153, or vote no, for the following reasons:

1. It's too long and complex, at 20 pages. Such complexity hides errors.
2. Part of the complexity of the bill is its interconnection with other legislation. A word search of the bill identified 131 references to "ORS #" where "#" was a digit from 1 to 9. There are many more references to ORS sections, since "ORS #" was often followed by a string of other ORS sections.
3. Unmentioned were "climate," "carbon," "fossil." "Environment" appeared 4 times in the context "Department of Environmental Quality". This bill focuses on a detail, not the big picture.
4. This bill increases climate change by inviting urban residents to wander farmland, burning fossil fuel.
5. Oregon is already strapped to provide highway maintenance. Bills that increase highway use to add such a small option for grocery choice doesn't see the big picture.
6. Many people prefer to ignore climate change, passing small laws like this, not recognizing they violate higher-level laws of physics that limit growth.
7. Oregon farm and forest is a world treasure, and Oregon's land use planning to preserve it is a national model. (I say this as a former Urban Planner.)
8. Table this bill. No bill over 10 pages and this trivial should be permitted in the Short Session.
9. The planet is now overpopulated, and can sustainably support less than half of its present population. Already, fertility rates are dropping below the replacement rate on every continent but Africa, and are falling fastest there. Cities will shrink, becoming more dense, like old European cities, which are great places to live. Rural housing will fall from use, as in Japan now. In a

few years, all the

infrastructure this bill intends to build will be abandoned. If passed, this bill will become a burden.

10. Of 1303 testimonies: 421 support and 882 oppose. Of supporters, over 50 come from Topaz Farm.

John Weigant has been a naval officer, physics teacher, urban planner, software developer, and

finally a teacher of software development techniques to software engineers world wide.

Now retired, he is a futurist and climate activist, knowing software and legislation are very similar.

Both are "codes" and require strict Quality Assurance (QA). Personal opinions matter at elections,

but group opinion matters more in design. "How a bill becomes a law" defines legislative QA,

but assumes products will be right the first time. Software long ago gave up that dream.

INFORMATION IS NOW HIS GAME.

Large first versions are always thrown away. This bill will introduce chaos into successful land use

policy. Climate change is certain, but this bill ignores it, and worsens it.

A successful software strategy is to look for similar codes elsewhere (don't reinvent wheels).

This bill may have positive merit, but only in a regular session, based on successful models.

Pay little attention to those few who will benefit, but great attention to informed groups.

The League of Women Voters has a good track record. Individual testimony has no known QA.

Groups must at least reach a consensus before delivering an opinion.

MORE QUALITY OF OPINION IS BETTER THAN MORE QUANTITY OF IT.

--THANK YOU