

Submitter: Thomas Livernash

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4113

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Breese Iverson and Andersen, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose HB 4113.

As an Oregonian, I deeply value the land use principles that have shaped our state for decades. Oregon's land use system has protected our farms, forests, open spaces, and communities while supporting long-term economic vitality. That balance is not accidental — it is the result of deliberate policy choices that have served this state well.

HB 4113 appears to advance the interests of a single private stakeholder at the expense of that broader, carefully structured system. Carving out exceptions to accommodate individual interests undermines the consistency and predictability that make Oregon's land use framework effective. Once those precedents are set, they are difficult to contain.

When I moved to Oregon in 1990, one of the things I appreciated most was that the state still valued its land — not just as a commodity, but as a legacy. As a resident of Bend, I have seen significant growth. While growth brings opportunity, it also brings pressure. What has distinguished Oregon is that we have insisted on protecting what can and should be protected. That commitment is part of why our communities retain their character and why we have avoided the unchecked sprawl seen elsewhere.

With many pressing priorities before you this session, I respectfully ask that you reject HB 4113 and reaffirm Oregon's longstanding commitment to thoughtful, principled land use policy.

Tom Livernash