

**From:** Eva Eagle  
**To:** [Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us](mailto:Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us); [Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us](mailto:Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us); [Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us](mailto:Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us); [Sen.Roblan](mailto:Sen.Roblan); [Sen.FloydProzanski@state.or.us](mailto:Sen.FloydProzanski@state.or.us)  
**Cc:** [SENR Exhibits](#); [Raszka Shelley](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Oppose SB432, SB612, SB602, SB608, and SB618  
**Date:** Monday, April 03, 2017 6:55:22 PM

---

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources:

I live on the East side of the Cascades, and you are considering five bills on land use that could have major impacts in our areas. However, getting to Salem to testify is quite difficult. Please accept this email as my testimony for the hearings that you will be having on Wednesday, April 6.

**SB432 and SB612** may look appealing at first glance, since seem to offer a way out for poor counties. However, they offer at most a false hope to struggling rural communities. These bills could authorize inappropriate and damaging activities on agricultural land that, once gone, cannot be replaced. Yet the bill does not require any evidence that doing this will alleviate the poverty in any way. Indeed, the promise that ‘freeing up’ land for development will create economic development is a false promise that will most likely lead to sprawl of second homes and a demand for infrastructure that these communities cannot afford.

As bad as these two bills are, they pale by comparison to SB602, SB608, and SB618.

- **SB602** allows cities to waive the state land use goals in order to maintain a 5 year supply of ‘shovel ready’ land for industrial and commercial development, but there is no process to determine that there would be any reason to do so. Surely violation of state law by exception should follow rather than lead any real development proposals. There is no evidence that this ‘proactive’ approach is going to create prosperity, although it does create the means to destroy agricultural land.
- **SB608** allows cities to expand the UGB if new households are exceeding new housing units and the vacancy rate is below 6%. As with SB602, this violation of state law would be permissible even if there were no immediate housing proposals in the offing and even if somebody wanted to put expensive vacation homes in the UGB expansion. Another bad proposal.
- **SB618** is quite simple and worst of all, enabling local governments to waive any land use goal for any reason or no reason at all. They only need to declare an emergency and make the exception. It is amazing to me that this bill is even getting a hearing in the Senate. In a very few words, this bill would undo decades of wise growth in Oregon.

I can’t help but notice that four of these five bills were written by the same representative. Clearly, Rep. Knopp, the Executive Vice President of the Central Oregon Builders Association, is making a broad scale assault on State law. Since Knopp represents a prosperous, rapidly growing district, this assault may serve his employers well but does not otherwise align with the interests of his district. The majority of Central Oregonians are fiercely protective of our natural resources and the laws that safeguard them... and, not incidentally, support the recreation that powers so much of our local economy.

I urge you to vote ‘No’ on all five of these misguided bills. Save the full Senate from wasting valuable time on proposals that offer much harm and little good.

Thank you,

Eva Eagle,

Sisters, OR

