

To: Rep. Brian Clem, House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use Chair

Cc: Rep. Susan McLain, Rep. Bill Post, Rep. Shelley Boshart Davis, Rep. Ken Helm, Rep. David Brock Smith, and Rep. Anna Williams.

Re: HB 2357

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you the position of the Oregon Land and Water Alliance (OLAWA) on House Bill 2357.

OLAWA is a 501c3 non-profit group based in the rural areas surrounding Sisters, Oregon. OLAWA advocates for the protection of our land use laws and sustainable water policies while educating ourselves and our fellow citizens about current issues relating to these important matters. OLAWA actively monitors, analyzes, and raises awareness of issues affecting residents and visitors in Central Oregon.

I am authorized to make the following statement by the Board of Directors of OLAWA.

HB 2357 is a bare knuckled attempt to stack the deck in the Land Use Board of Appeals to favor developers over the general public. Land use decisions on the Oregon Coast, the Columbia Gorge, the Metolius basin, Smith Rocks, the Steens Mountains, the Deschutes River, and elsewhere affect all Oregonians, including those many thousands represented by 1000 Friends, Water Watch, OLAWA, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the Oregon Natural Desert Association, Northwest Steelheaders, Trout Unlimited, COLW, etc.

And it also would disenfranchise all the additional thousands of unrepresented vacation homeowners, hikers, commercial and recreational fishermen, hunters, beachcomers, windsurfers,

birdwatchers, mushroom gatherers, boat owners, rock climbers, and nature photographers, as well as all other private citizens who do not happen to reside within an arbitrary 25 miles of the specific area considered for development, but who are, and must be, entitled to equal participation in all government affairs that vitally affect them.

Such a bill is also an affront to Tom McCall and many others who envisioned Oregon as a special place where special interests would be unable to exert undue influence over development proposals that affect all Oregonians.

This bill is a wrong step in the wrong direction.

Please let this bill die in committee as it should.

Thank you,

Oregon Land and Water Alliance

By Paul J. Lipscomb, Vice President