

ANNA WILLIAMS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 52



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 8, 2021

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building, H271
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 3109

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I am writing to explain my vote against the Senate's amendments to House Bill 3109, following my earlier sponsorship of that measure in its unamended form.

I have been a passionate advocate for changes to the law to make childcare access easier for Oregonians, to reduce barriers for rural families to find affordable care, and for funding to help establish additional child care providers in rural communities. Indeed, I have directed a large amount of American Rescue Plan funding toward the provision of child care on the Hood River campus of the Columbia Gorge Community College.

Earlier in the legislative session, I was excited to hear that my colleague was drafting a bill to allow child care facilities within commercial and industrial zones. I cosponsored that measure in the hopes that it would increase the availability of childcare for people in the communities I represent. During House Bill 3109's brief time in the Senate, though, the Senate Committee on Education made a massive amendment without consulting House sponsors of the measure: HB 3109 became a bill to allow child care facilities to be placed on land designated for exclusive farm use (EFU).

I am not entirely averse to allowing limited non-farm uses on EFU lands, but these are not insignificant changes to the state's land use laws. Any such change must be thoroughly vetted to prevent unintended consequences. That process was not pursued here: members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, which first passed the bill and on which I sit, were not consulted. Hence, even with my continuing commitment to improve access to child care in rural Oregon, I was compelled to vote no when asked to concur in the Senate's amendment to HB 3109.

My Best,

Anna Williams
State Representative, House District 52

