

March 25, 2025

**Position on Bills at 2025
Session of Oregon Legislature:
SB 1129: Oppose**



The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) is a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote causes for the benefit of all Oregonians.

COIN opposes SB 1129, which would raise the priority for adding lands to urban reserves if those lands have “poor quality soils, limited water rights or minimal or no current or recent active farm use.” Note use of the disjunctive “or.” The priority would rise if any of these conditions is met.

The provision for lands with “no current or recent active farm use” would allow anyone who owns productive farmland to mothball it for a few years to raise its priority for addition to an urban reserve. As the Jan Lee, President Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, testified: “Given the substantial profit margins of development compared to farming, this concern is not theoretical – it will most certainly happen.” She continued:

In short, SB-1129 would short-circuit Oregon’s historic land use planning process and result in permanent impacts to Oregon’s farmers and farmland. We appreciate the legislature’s serious attention to Oregon’s farm, range and forest lands, as the longer we ignore these challenges, the more seriously these lands are irreparably impacted. If these lands are lost they cannot be replaced.

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