

Submitter: Alexander Cooper

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

Dear members of the Committee,

I grow nursery trees outside of Canby and I oppose Senate Bill 1537, particularly the provision that allows cities to expand their urban growth boundaries. Perhaps the committee is unaware that there is no other growing region quite like the Willamette Valley on this planet, which is why Oregon has such a vibrant nursery industry. Much of the nursery industry here cannot just be moved. It either happens here or it doesn't happen at all. The growing conditions of the Willamette Valley are a precious resource for humanity as a whole, as without our nursery industry global supply chains of fruit and shade trees will be broken. To allow this land to just be paved over for any reason at all, let alone for the paltry and dubious justifications we are given for SB1537, makes absolutely no sense at all.

Homelessness and high housing costs are national problems and have been generations in the making. If SB1537 is passed there will be no perceptible improvement in either, but it will invite further fake "emergency" challenges to Oregon's land use planning system and light the fuse for its destruction. The very thing Oregon residents and visitors love about our state, ie the proximity of outdoor spaces to living spaces, is also threatened by this ill-conceived bill SB1537. Please protect the Oregon that we know and love as well as the Oregon that our nursery industry relies on and reject SB1537.

Sincerely,
Alex Cooper
Willamette Nurseries