

Submitter: Dianne Ensign
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1578

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 1578. I urge you to vote "no" on this bill.

I am a lifelong Oregonian who opposes SB 1578 because it would allow unlimited pockets of urban-density housing on rural agricultural and forest land without considering the safeguards that protect Oregon's farms, ranches, forests, natural resources and rural communities from inappropriate and harmful development. I am deeply concerned that SB 1578 authorizes rural counties to rezone up to 50 acres of working lands for urban development without considering impacts on agriculture, forestry, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, water supplies or wildfire risk. It also expands the authorization for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) used by cities to increase urban densities into the exclusive farm use zone.

Protecting Oregon's farms, ranches, forests, and other natural resources, while focusing housing growth where infrastructure already exists, is both possible and essential. I urge you to reject SB 1578.

Thank you for considering my comments and allowing this opportunity for public input.