

Submitter: Jeff Heilman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Hello Chair Pham and Committee Members:

Thank you for your service to Oregon's land, waters, wildlife and people!

I deeply appreciate Oregon's thoughtful approach to land use and I hope you will reject SB 1522-1.

This bill would remove one of the key pillars for Oregon's land use system - the prioritization scheme. Prioritization ensures that when communities are determining where and how to grow with their Urban Growth Boundaries and Urban Reserves, they must consider a number of factors and balance development and urbanization with preserving our farm and forest lands.

Without the sideboards provided by this defining element of our land use system, cities would sprawl into farm and forest lands rather than onto lands already planned and zoned for residential or commercial uses.

SB 1522-1 also undermines the December 2025 LCDC adoption of rules implementing the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis. Those rules represented a just, thoughtful and equitable approach developed through years of work by DLCD and stakeholders. By contrast, SB 1522-1 represents an impulsive approach that would have devastating negative effects.

Please reject SB 1522-1.

Sincerely,
Jeff Heilman