

Submitter: Larry Thompson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB1537

February 7, 2024

RE: SB1537

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development.

My name is Larry Thompson and I live in Lake Oswego.

I heartily commend the Governor and the Legislature in your efforts to address the shortage of housing. I am however concerned that SB1537 will expand our Urban Growth Boundaries (UGBs) which I believe is unnecessary and will have the unintended consequence of increasing housing costs as new infrastructure including roads, bridges and utilities will need to be built and paid for.

Additionally expanding the UGBs implies more miles driven by cars and trucks which are a major source of greenhouse gases (GHGs). These GHGs increase pollution, cause adverse health effects, and inhibit our ability to meet our state's climate goals.

In my view a preferable approach would be to increase housing density within the current UGBs, which will avoid infrastructure costs, provide for lower cost housing, improve our general health and facilitate more vibrant and walkable cities.

I urge you to support an amendment to SB1537 to eliminate the possibility of changes to the current UGBs.

Sincerely,

Larry Thompson
Lake Oswego, Oregon