

Submitter: Brian Ettling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

My name is Brian Ettling and I live in outer NE Portland. I am extremely worried about climate change. I worked as a seasonal park ranger at Crater Lake National Park for 25 years from 1992 to 2017 where I saw the impacts of climate change with a diminishing annual snowpack and more intense wildfire seasons causing visitors to cancel their vacations, which negatively impacted the Oregon economy. We must do all we can to reduce the threat of climate change. Part of that includes protecting our urban growth boundaries (UGB) which has forests which store and are even sinks to reduce carbon dioxide. Plus, it encourages Oregonians to live in more urban developed parts of our cities to reduce their carbon emissions.

Yes, we do have a severe housing shortage in Oregon. Thus, I applaud Governor Tina Kotek and the Senate Committee on Housing and Development for trying to tackle the housing issue with SB 1537. There are many things I appreciate about this bill to address the huge shortage of housing in Oregon. I really like that the bill has:

- * infrastructure funding that prioritizes affordable housing within existing urban growth boundaries
- * climate-smart incentives
- * creates the Housing Accountability and Production Office
- * prioritizes building in livable, walkable neighborhoods

However, I DO NOT LIKE that SB 1537 has unnecessary UGB expansion loopholes that push already-marginalized people farther from their communities and resource networks.

I urge you to please add an amendment to SB 1537 that protects the UGB from unnecessary expansion loopholes. The UGB is an important tool to address climate change in Oregon.

Please DO NOT weaken the UGB.

Thank you so much for considering my written testimony on this.

With much gratitude.

Brian Ettling