



Subject: Support for SB 1564

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, Senator Jama, Senator Nash, and Senator Patterson:

On behalf of the City of Woodburn, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 1564.

Woodburn has been eager to assist in meeting the Governor's housing emergency declaration, yet our ability to do so has been constrained despite being the fastest-growing city in Oregon with a population over 5,000. We continue to absorb new residents at a record pace and are rapidly building out the remaining residential lands within our Urban Growth Boundary. SB 1564 provides a critical opportunity for Woodburn to meet the region's housing needs in a timely and responsible manner.

The property at issue was recently transferred from a well-known and respected farm family who recognized that the land is no longer viable for agricultural production. This bill presents a meaningful opportunity to put approximately 120 acres of land—already adjacent to urban services and no longer in active agricultural use—to work in meeting Oregon's urgent housing needs.

The current property owner has committed to developing homes for approximately 2,000 residents—no fewer than 600 units—including guaranteed affordable housing for at least 200 families. This represents one of the most significant opportunities for meaningful, near-term housing production in the northern Willamette Valley.

I also want to address a misconception: SB 1564 is not a “super siting” bill. It does not bypass annexation, land use review, or any of the City’s local processes. The only step it streamlines is the state-level UGB amendment process—a process that took Woodburn more than ten years to complete during our last expansion effort.

As Mayor, I can promise that this bill does not waive public engagement or the local decision-making process. The City Council retains full authority to approve or deny annexation. That, including the standard suite of hearings, findings, and local decision making all remain intact. SB 1564 simply allows the City to begin that process without waiting years for a state-level boundary amendment.

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For these reasons, the City of Woodburn respectfully urges your support for this crucial legislation. SB 1564 will help us meet the housing needs of our residents, strengthen our employment land base, and ensure that our community can grow in a planned, responsible, and equitable manner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Lonergan
Mayor