

Submitter: Annis Henson
On Behalf Of: Myself other friends
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Dear Chair Pham and Committee members,

Please hear me out. When we lived in Roseburg, I was a very young member of their League of Women voters. 1973. The LCDC was partly made reality by Leagues all over our state who studied the issue and knew how California, Washington, and Idaho (not so much, yet.) had developed without any mindset for saving forests, open land, wildlife. No LCDC.

Later we moved to Bend; population about 13,000. In the 1990s til 2003, as field staff with the regional level of Habitat for Humanity in the Western States, I saw for myself how different our Oregon was/is compared to what had continued to happen in the entire West - Montana included. No space between towns/cities: zero. Almost NO open space has been preserved unless tireless work was accomplished by valiant citizenry to save this or that tiny little wetland spaces, for example Mission Bay N. Preservation area in San Diego. Or N. Humbolt estuary National Wildlife Refuge in N. Calif. Yes, we are birders who know something about wetlands and their essential place for safe water and its wildlife.

This bill is appalling: it would totally wipe out guiding principles of our Oregon ways of Land Use planning. I do believe there are ways to update some parts of our "gold standard" methods of planning. This bill does not qualify! Our precious farm and forest lands are to be preserved under basic principles and factors. These same guidelines have also engaged planners and the public to balance "efficient" development and urbanization.

My attendance at the Deschutes County Commission meetings for about 4 years is relevant here. Week after week I see proponents of rezoning exclusive farm and forest areas in our county for residential development. Usually the majority of the Commission lets this happen. Disgusting because the infrastructure isn't there; the houses are for the wealthiest among us, water use isn't considered. This is done when there is still land within the Urban Growth Boundaries for housing. Just drive around Bend where our density increases but we still have open space, wildlife still is able to move around, our county wide subsistent farmers and ranchers still carry on their businesses and lifestyle. I hear their testimonies at Commission meetings about how their ingenuity and successes cannot continue with all this unwise rezoning. This bill 1522-1 would truly end these possibilities here in C. Oregon.

Due to my career with Habitat for Humanity, I know this bill would also disregard another very important, critical issue.

In December 2025 our LCDC adopted rules that will implement the Oregon Housing

Needs Analysis. Are you all aware of the work that went into this, why it cannot be thrown in the trash? The DLCD and "stakeholders" accomplished something quite remarkable; it is your responsibility to recognize their incredible long years of work and see that it goes into our land use process in Oregon, 2026.

Lastly, we have a grandson who has settled back in Bend after graduating from UO's school of business. He has a great job, had traveled widely as a truly frugal young man and saw with his own eyes why C. Oregon cannot be outclassed. Yes we are an urban community now; but his little house sits across from The Pine Nursery huge park where he met his girlfriend playing sand volleyball. Think on that. We have benefited by the fantastic LCDC, this family and others have jobs, have open space, can now possibly raise others to see and believe in our Oregon Way of working hard to figure out how to responsibly move into the future.

Thank you so much for this chance to weigh in; please consider my points. Other statewide priorities should point toward defeating SB 1522-1. I await anxiously for your deliberations.

Sincerely,
Annis Henson