

Submitter: Dean Moberg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson,  
and Members Senate Committee on Housing and Development

I'm writing in opposition to the "One-Time Site Additions to Urban Growth Boundaries" provisions in SB 1537, Relating to Housing.

I am a resident of Washington County, serve as an elected director on a soil and water conservation district board, and serve as a member of a farmers market board. The following are my views and do not necessarily represent the views of any organization on which I serve.

SB 1537 intends to increase the supply of housing, including affordable housing, which is an excellent goal. However, the bill includes provisions in Sections 48-60 that will allow cities to bypass Oregon's 1973 Land Use Act. I believe that short-cuts to our iconic land use process:

- Are not needed to meet affordable housing goals.
- Will result in more expensive homes as compared with development within the existing urban growth boundaries.
- Are a recipe for urban sprawl and increased reliance on transportation by automobile.
- Will require larger investments in infrastructure, roads, and utilities compared to building affordable housing inside existing UGBs.
- Will result in paving over irreplaceable farmland soils that provide locally grown food, agricultural products for a hungry world, wildlife habitat, and the potential to sequester carbon.

Given this, I am deeply concerned about the SB 1537 provisions to short-cut our land use process and convert farmland into urban growth.

I urge the committee to remove the One-Time Site Additions to Urban Growth Boundaries section of SB 1537.

Thank you for your service to Oregon.