

Submitter: William Dalton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

Dear Senate Committee on Housing and Development:

I am writing to express my major concerns re. SB 1537.

I have worked my entire professional life administering community mental and public health services and programs.

With that experience, my own observations in the major cities of Oregon, and having lost a friend to homelessness -- I am well aware of the crisis we are facing.

I am very excited and pleased that our government officials have recognized homelessness as a priority and are proposing actions to address this issue.

That said, though I appreciate the LACK of HOUSING being recognized as a major aspect of this crisis, I do not believe measures simply allowing the expansion of our hard-fought-for URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARIES is a right solution:

.. Almost all urban areas have already existent un-/under-- utilized land within their CURRENT UGB's to allow for appropriate housing development.

.. The broad-stroke permissiveness of the current proposal for expanding UGB's will undermine Oregon's decades-long successful effort to rein in inappropriate development.

.. If such a generalized solution was to be approved, it would establish a precedent for both encroaching on lands not appropriate for such development AND weakening the very laws and restrictions that have made Oregon a national model for appropriate and sensitive Land Use (vs. "ABUSE").

As you consider this important issue, I urge You to consider both alternatives and amendments that will encourage affordable housing development for the unhoused while maintaining our current land safeguards.

Thank You for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William B. Dalton, Ph.D.