

Submitter: Lee Johnson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Dear Chair Pham and committee members:

I urgently ask that you oppose SB 1522-1. It removes a critical pillar of Oregon's land use system. The "prioritization scheme" ensures a balance between accommodating urban uses and protecting our state's productive farm and forest lands. Today, a city must consider several factors and balance development and urbanization with preserving our farm and forest lands. This bill will end that balance in favor of sprawling urban areas. Our current land use system already is planned and zoned for residential or commercial uses. Oregon is unique in our land use system. We all know of too many examples of states with uncontrolled sprawl, marred by unchecked or unplanned development. Our system has proven itself over decades to provide a good balance leading to livable cities and towns, while retaining farms, forests, and open spaces that sustain our communities. We need to promote dense, infill development and pass appropriate laws that make it possible, without taking the easy way out and resorting to an approach that will lead to endless sprawl.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope you will say "no" to SB 1522-1.