

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

Dear Chair Pham and Committee Members:

I am writing today to ask you to oppose SB 1522-1.

I do not want to see cities expand their urban growth into adjacent farm and forest land. These lands are necessary buffers between cities as well as valuable in their own right. I would hate to see Oregon go the way of states that allow and abet urban sprawl. We need robust agriculture to feed people, and farmers already face challenges to their way of life without the threat of urbanization too.

Today, if a city wants to designate urban reserves for possible future expansion of its urban growth boundary, it must consider soil types and existing uses to balance development and urbanization. SB 1522-1 would end that process by directing cities to expand into lands easiest to urbanize. Thus it removes one of the key pillars of Oregon's land use system.

There are better ways to increase housing and commercial development, including careful rezoning and infill within cities. Let's preserve what is special about Oregon rather than rush to pave it over!

Thank you. I hope you will say NO to SB 1522-1.