

February 12, 2026

To the Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

Re: SB1522-1

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson and members of the committee:

I am writing today to ask you to oppose SB 1522-1. SB 1522-1 would remove the current protections afforded to our state's farm and forest land under the law. The laws of our land use planning system were put in place to prioritize the order in which land would be developed to allow cities to expand their Urban Growth Boundaries. The laws balance the need to protect resource land: high-value farmland and forest land, while also allowing cities to expand. The current prioritization system directs cities to look to non-resource land, less valuable farmland or rural residential land first when designating urban reserves.

SB 1522-1 would destroy the prioritization system by prohibiting cities from avoiding farm and forest land. SB 1522-1 removes the requirement to consider soil type (high value agricultural land vs. lower value land) and existing uses (such as current agricultural production). SB 1522-1 directs cities to go to lands that are easiest to urbanize. Easy often means flat, well-drained farmland. Without the protections of the prioritization system, our high-value farmland will be lost.

Oregon's land use planning system was initiated with an intent to have a deliberate, thoughtful process for land development and land protections. SB 1522-1 guts that process. The Department of Land Conservation and Development and stakeholders recently completed years of work to analyze the current system. It resulted in the December 2025 Land Conservation and Development Commission adoption of rules implementing the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis. SB 1522-1 would disrupt the lengthy work of stakeholders and the Department that went into the Analysis.

Oregon deserves **your** thoughtful and careful deliberation. Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments.

Sincerely,

Theodora Schrier

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