



My name is Paul Lipscomb, and I am the Vice President of OLAWA: the Oregon Land and Water Alliance. I have been authorized to submit this testimony on the currently proposed SB 1537 behalf of our organization. We are a 501c3 organization based in Central Oregon. One of our primary efforts is to review and consider legislative proposals affecting Oregon's Land Use laws.

Having reviewed the currently proposed language of SB 1537 in detail, we would like to take this opportunity to oppose parts of SB 1537 as currently drafted. We ask this legislature to amend this bill by discarding the bill's current language that allows both large and small cities to sidestep important parts of our current land use law protections when amending their urban growth boundaries.

The State of Oregon has had a long-standing history of supporting comity and cooperation between the powers of Oregon cities and towns and county governing bodies. As a result, much of the land inside our existing urban growth boundaries reflects compromises between the local governments of our cities and counties.

In its present format, SB 1537 would upset those local balances to the possible long-standing detriment of local government relationships. This bill would go so far as to disallow county governments from tempering any city's overly aggressive use of this new statutory authority.

Most of the current language of SB 1537 is unobjectionable, and indeed positive, in both its intent and its provisions. However, prior to its passage, SB 1537 should be amended to delete the provisions which would allow Oregon cities to

disregard our state's long-established processes, policies and safeguards for expanding urban growth boundaries.

Indeed, these very land use guidelines have provided the necessary framework for protecting our state's invaluable natural resources – our water, forests and farmlands – a distinction that sets Oregon apart from other states.

Working to find pathways for creating critical affordable housing while preserving Oregon's equally critical land use protections should be the primary goal of this legislative session. The product of such a collaborative effort would nobly serve and provide for Oregon's citizens for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,



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