

Date: February 12, 2026

To: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
From: Richard I. Knight
Subject: Opposition to SB1522-1

Dear Chair Pham and Committee Members:

As owner and resident of EFU zoned property in Washington County, I am writing in opposition to SB 1522-1. This bill removes key provisions of Oregon's unique planning process that requires careful, thoughtful, open and community engaged consideration before actions are permitted with the potential to permanently damage the lands of our exceptional State.

Our land planning process is not always fast, but it has consistently supported responsible development and delivered exceptional results preventing much of the damage that has plagued less thoughtful States. Oregon is a proud and successful exception to the damage that other States have suffered by taking "short cuts" around thoughtful planning to accommodate the desires of special interests. SB 1522-1 establishes precedents and procedures that blunt or remove proven processes that cities must now follow.

Oregon's success has resulted from years of thoughtful planning led by the Department of Land Conservation and Development with wide participation by stakeholders from across Oregon. Why the short session rush to upend this careful planning? Instead, I urge your committee to insist on maintaining thoughtful, engaged planning with respect for established processes rather than supporting this "short cut" bill.

Cities now have a clear and responsible process for determining and modifying urban growth boundaries. It is critical that we continue to have, respect, and use the "prioritization scheme" that supports progress based on thoughtful, thorough and open processes. Enacting SB 1522—1 would be a sad and ill-considered step away from Oregon's values and experience.

Please say "no" to SB1522-1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Knight
Knight@hevanet.com