

Submitter: Robert Emmons
On Behalf Of: LandWatch Lane County
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB1537

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Committee Chair and Committee Members:

Urban Growth Boundaries (UGBs) are keystones in Oregon's land use program, and they have been largely successful in containing urban style development within urban areas. HB 1537, however, allows the siting of housing on hundreds of acres outside UGBs, even though most cities are not asking for it, and at least 10,000 acres are already available inside UGBs.

This bill is a gross violation of the purpose and function of urban growth boundaries to protect resource lands and natural areas and of Goal 14, which requires an orderly legislative procedure for urbanization.

When every effort should be made to eradicate policies and practices that are contributing to global warming and threatening the survival of all species, it is disappointing, distressing and bitterly ironic to have a Democratic governor doing everything in her power to overturn the hard fought land protection and 50 year legacy of a Republican governor.

At a minimum any increase in housing should occur only on land within UGBs, first and foremost in re-purposed buildings near social services.

Notwithstanding, while building in and building up may relieve some of the pressure to develop farm and forest lands, natural areas and open space outside urban growth boundaries, that relief is necessarily only temporary and comes with its own intolerable impacts. Until serious steps are taken to curb the populations driving the growth Governor Kotek has chosen to feed, Oregon is certain to meet the fate of other states that have long suffered from uncontrolled development.

We don't need more housing; we need fewer people and more decision makers who

recognize the logical absurdity and tragic fallacy of infinite growth on a finite planet.

Sincerely,
Robert Emmons, President
LandWatch Lane County