

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

Dear Chair Pham and committee members,

I am writing to ask you to oppose SBI 1522-1, which would wreak havoc on our growth planning process by changing the process for determining which land is designated urban reserves and, ultimately, encouraging development on vital farm land.

While these changes would be bad for all Oregonians, disrupting the current balance between protecting farm land and making room for urban expansion, the damage to our farming communities would be devastating. I have many friends who work small farms and I have seen how difficult it is for them to find affordable, productive land. Farming is hard work, we all know, but we all benefit from that work. Oregon has an embarrassment of riches in the beautiful, healthful produce grown on local farms. The hard work of Oregon farmers supports all Oregonians as well as the Oregon tourism and restaurant industries.

Please protect the system we have in place that supports farms and farmers. Please oppose SB 1522-1.

Respectfully,
Joan Thompson