

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 1522.

I am a farmer in Hubbard, Oregon. Our family farm currently grows filberts, timber and beef cattle. This year we will be planting Christmas trees.

I am opposed to SB1522. I believe it undermines the current protections we have in place for farmland. Farmland is necessary for Oregon's second most valuable industry: agriculture. Agricultural land is industrial land being used to generate income for Oregon. It should not be land waiting to be converted to another use.

SB 1522 allows farmland to be urbanized. If farmland is allowed to be developed for other uses besides agriculture, it drives up the price of land for farmers. Farmland is already expensive in Oregon. It is out of reach for most young farmers who want to own land and farm. I am fortunate that our farm has been in my family for generations and that I am now one of the owners. Please consider the impacts this bill would have on our young farmers and on agriculture, one of the primary drivers of Oregon's economic engine.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Sincerely,

Theodora Schrier

Theodora Schrier
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