

Submitter: Matt and Jennifer Van Wey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Dear Chair Pham and Committee Members:

I am writing today to ask you to oppose SB 1522-1.

This bill will have a massive negative impact on current and future generations of farmers and the farm economy across Oregon. We live and farm on land that is considered High Value Farm land on the edge of the Estacada UGB. It is completely flat, fertile ground that for hundreds of years has supported a thriving agricultural community and economy that has provided jobs and food for both the rural community but also the Portland Metro. This land and the land that surrounds us would be ripe for conversion due to the proximity to town and the flat land. Affordable farm land within a reasonable distance to population centers is fundamental to a diverse agricultural economy, and stands up against the consolidation and corporatization of farms. I am absolutely exhausted from having to stand up to protect my livelihood and the viability of farming in Oregon. If you want to preserve the existence of family farms and the unique character of the Oregon landscape, please oppose this bill.

SB 1522-1 removes one of the key pillars of Oregon's land use system: The "prioritization scheme" that ensures a balance between accommodating urban uses and protecting the state's amazingly productive farm and forest lands. Today, if a city determines they want to designate urban reserves for possible future expansion of its urban growth boundary, the city must consider several factors and balance development and urbanization with preserving our farm and forest lands. This bill ends that balance in favor of sprawling urban areas.

Without the sideboards provided by this critical part of our land use system, we would see cities always expand onto farm and forest lands, rather than onto lands already planned and zoned for residential or commercial uses.

SB 1522, -1 upends many years of work recently completed by the Department of Land Conservation and Development and stakeholders resulting in the December 2025 Land Conservation and Development Commission adoption of rules implementing the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis.

Thank you for considering my comments; I hope you will say "no" to SB 1522-1.

Sincerely,

Matt and Jennifer Van Wey
Quackenbush Farm in Estacada, OR