

Submitter: Kim Foster

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

As a rural Oregonian, I strongly oppose the -1 amendment to SB 1522. For decades, Oregon's urban growth framework has required that farm and forest lands be considered dead last when designating urban reserves. The -1 amendment removes that protection and prohibits cities from avoiding resource lands when identifying future expansion areas.

The current system carefully balances the needs of affordable housing and economic growth with strong resource land protection. The -1 amendment disrupts that balance and weakens a core principle of Oregon's land use system that has worked for decades.

This change would increase pressure to expand cities into productive agricultural and forest lands, undermining decades of policy designed to protect Oregon's second-largest industry: agriculture.

It's hard enough for farmers and ranchers out here to survive. Don't pass this.