

Submitter: Corinne Sherton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1578

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Breese Iverson and Andersen, and Committee members:

I am writing today to ask you to oppose SB 1578.

SB 1578 authorizes rural counties to rezone up to 50 acres of working farm or forest land for urban development without considering impacts on agriculture, forestry, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, water supplies or wildfire risk.

Spot zoning pockets of urban development outside cities and towns with urban infrastructure would be costly, difficult to serve and would lead to a sprawling development pattern requiring increased vehicle miles traveled. It would also introduce conflicts between residential use and agriculture/forestry in the midst of Oregon's working lands, cutting into these industries' bottom line.

Protecting Oregon's farms, ranches, forests, wildlife and other natural resources, while focusing housing growth where infrastructure already exists, is both possible and essential. I urge you to reject SB 1578.

Sincerely,

Corinne Sherton