

Submitter: Stacey Holeman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1129

I OPPOSE SB 1129 because it would allow developers to buy up farm and forest land and convert it to urban reserves. Former Circuit Court Judge Paul Lipscomb testified: "SB 1129 is a dangerous bill...Currently, local governments already have adequate discretion to decide which available lands are best suited for urban reserves which could later be incorporated into their urban growth boundaries. Cities and counties are already authorized to identify exclusive farm use zoned properties for expansion into their urban growth boundaries if their existing urban properties are truly no longer able to accommodate future growth. But that power exists only when it is actually necessary, not just when it might be convenient or popular."

The bill creates a huge loophole that would short-circuit Oregon's successful land use planning process and negatively impact Oregon's farm and forestland.

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