

Submitter: Michele McKay

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Chair Pham and Committee Members,

I'm writing today in strong and urgent opposition to SB 1522-1.

Oregon's unique land use planning system makes Oregon the beautiful, productive State it is today.

When our communities need to expand their Urban Growth Boundaries and Urban Reserves, they must consider a number of factors, including balancing efficient development and urbanization with preserving farm and forest lands.

SB 1522 -1 would completely remove this fundamental component of Oregon's growth planning process by allowing cities to take a shortcut and approve development on undeveloped farm and forest land.

Further, it would allow cities to pass over other lands that are already zoned to become part of the city.

Oregon's land use system provides a balance that has led to livable cities and towns, constrained rural sprawl, and limited climate pollution... all while preserving the farms, forests, and open spaces that sustain our economies, ecosystems, and communities.

As if this isn't bad enough, SB 1522-1 also undermines the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis (OHNA) rules, which provide a positive step toward expanding access to affordable, accessible, and diverse housing options in every Oregon community. Local communities and the state spent the past two years working on these measures, through a painstaking, multi-stakeholder process, and the rules were adopted only 2 months ago.

Please reject SB 1522-1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,
Michele McKay
Bend, OR