

Submitter: Adam Sunshine

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Dear Chair Pham and Committee Members,

My name is Adam Sunshine, and I live in Portland Oregon. I work in local agriculture and food systems; as the assistant manager of the Hillsdale Farmers Market I support local farmers and connect families to locally grown food. I care deeply about responsible growth, strong communities, and Oregon's land use system, because I see every week how farmland protection directly supports livelihoods, food access, and our regional economy. I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1522-1.

Oregon's land use system works because it balances development with the protection of our most productive farm and forest lands. The prioritization framework is central to that balance. It ensures that when cities grow, they first look to lands already planned for urban use rather than expanding outward onto working landscapes. SB 1522-1 removes that balance and tilts the system toward sprawl.

From my perspective working with farmers across Oregon, that balance is not abstract. It is what allows farms to operate with stability and long-term confidence. When farmland becomes the default option for expansion, it raises uncertainty, inflates land prices, fragments agricultural areas, and makes it harder for farms to invest in soil health, equipment, and long-term production. That directly affects the viability of local food systems and the economic resilience of rural communities.

This bill also undermines years of collaborative policy work. The Department of Land Conservation and Development and a wide range of stakeholders recently completed extensive work to implement the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis, with rules adopted just weeks ago in December 2025. Changing the foundational framework now disrupts that process before we have even seen how it functions in practice.

We absolutely need more housing and thoughtful urban growth. But weakening the very structure that ensures growth happens in the right places is not the solution. Oregon has long been a national leader in managing growth deliberately and responsibly. SB 1522-1 moves us away from that legacy.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to vote no on SB 1522-1.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Adam Sunshine