

Submitter: David Gutt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Dear Chair Pham and Senate Committee Members:

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on what I and many fellow community members perceive to be a poorly conceived, counterproductive measure. What in the world are the authors of this bill thinking? The only reason I can see is - greed and money. Please oppose SB 1522-1.

You all must be well versed in our state's land use system; the benefits and protections it bestows on the people inhabiting it. I am concerned this bill removes one of the key pillars for Oregon's land use system - the prioritization scheme. This approach ensures that when communities determine where and how to grow with their Urban Growth Boundaries and Urban Reserves, they must consider a number of factors and balance development and urbanization while preserving our farm and forest lands. Responsible development and its constraints are a necessary feature of any well conceived municipality.

I have lived in places where urban sprawl displaces farms and disrupts families, indeed entire landscapes. Oregon's land use system is one of many reasons why I chose to live here. Without the guardrails manifested in it, we would see cities expand onto farm and forest lands rather than onto lands already planned and zoned for residential or commercial uses.

Furthermore, SB 1522-1 also undermines many years of work recently completed by DLCD and stakeholders resulting in the December 2025 LCDC adoption of rules implementing the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis.

Please reject SB 1522-1. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
David Gutt
Bend