

Submitter: Larry Weymouth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Honorable Committee Members:

As a lifelong Oregonian and retired professional planner, I write asking you to oppose SB 1522-1, which would remove the "prioritization scheme" that ensures a balance between accommodating urban uses and protecting the state's amazingly productive farm and forest lands. Today, if a city determines they want to designate urban reserves for possible future expansion of its urban growth boundary, the city must consider several factors and balance development and urbanization with preserving our farm and forest lands. This bill ends that balance in favor of sprawling urban areas. Thus, we would see cities always expand onto farm and forest lands, rather than onto lands already planned and zoned for residential or commercial uses. SB 1522-1 would destroy one of the key pillars of Oregon's land use system. Please oppose this bill.

Larry Weymouth
Corvallis