

Submitter: Peter Bergel
On Behalf Of: Oregon PeaceWorks
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB1537

Members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Bergel and I am an Oregon citizen living in Salem. I have lived in Oregon for 59 years.

I mostly support this measure, but my support hinges on this Committee's amending the bill to eliminate the provision allowing easy expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary anywhere. The UGB system has been a successful way to prevent urban sprawl and protect farm and wood lands. There is no reason to change or weaken it. Having grown up in the city of Orange in Southern California, I watched as all the orange groves in Orange County - which were everywhere when my family moved there in 1955 - entirely disappear over the next ten years or so. They were bulldozed down and replaced with urban sprawl. I do not want to see anything like that happen to Oregon.

I support the intent of this bill.

YES to infrastructure funding that prioritizes affordable housing within existing urban growth boundaries!

YES to climate-smart incentives!

YES to the Housing Accountability and Production Office!

YES to prioritizing building in livable, walkable neighborhoods!

But emphatically NO to unnecessary UGB expansion loopholes that would push already-marginalized people farther from their communities and resource networks.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my view with you.

Peter Bergel