

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

Hello Chair Pham and Committee Members:

Thank you for your commitment to representative government and public service. I am an admirer of Oregon's thoughtful, measured approach to land use and I hope you will reject SB 1522-1.

This bill would dynamite one of the most important pillars of Oregon's land use system — the prioritization scheme. This approach ensures that when communities figure out 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 with preserving our irreplaceable and valuable farm and forest lands that support our valuable agriculture and timber industries.

Without the sideboards provided by this critical part of our land use system, cities would sprawl into farm and forest lands rather than onto lands already planned and zoned for residential or commercial uses. This is not wise when alternatives have not been exhausted to maximize the density of existing cities. Urban infill, multifamily development, and "building up" are straightforward, viable alternatives to increase housing supply.

Please reject SB 1522-1.

Sincerely,
Clark Kocurek