

Submitter: David Suttle
On Behalf Of: Oregon UGB Legislation
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB1537

Dear Governor Kotek,

I am writing to you as a long-term Oregon resident and a licensed Oregon architect to express my deep concern over one of the provisions contained in Oregon Senate Bill 1537 ("SB1537"): the provision for unilateral expansion of every Oregon city's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) without following the normal process for such expansions.

For the past 50 years Urban Growth Boundaries have protected our precious farmlands from being consumed by suburban tract home developments. Containment of our cities and restriction of suburban sprawl has allowed the operators of small farms to live close enough to our cities that they can sell their products directly to consumers. This is extremely valuable to the Oregon economy and critical to maintaining our quality of life.

Every Saturday morning I buy fresh, locally-grown provisions at the Portland Farmers Market. It is a reciprocal gift to know and support the people who grow my food, and to be nourished by their good work. During our peak growing season tens of thousands of Oregonians and visitors to our state enjoy this unique privilege every weekend.

Our local farmland is a treasure that we cannot squander under the pressure of tract home developers, many of whom are not even Oregon residents.

As a practicing Oregon architect, my livelihood depends upon building. And as a homeowner who lives in inner NE Portland and rides his bike into the Pearl District every day for work, I truly understand the need for housing. But building suburban tract homes on farmland is not a solution to our homeless crisis. It will not provide housing to those who need it most.

In addition to destroying farmland forever, suburban sprawl increases energy consumption, pollution, and global warming, as people must travel greater distances to access basic goods and services. Building new developments on top of open farmland also siphons infrastructure dollars from inside existing UGB's where construction is more efficient and cost effective.

Oregon already has over 10,000 acres of land available for housing construction within existing UGBs. Let's continue to support the urban planning and land use efforts of the past 50 years and concentrate our growth on infill development, building

upward, not outward, and keeping our cities contained. Please, please consider this.

Governor Kotek, as your constituent, I ask that you please amend SB1537 to remove this unnecessary provision that will erode protections for our agricultural lands.

Please honor Tom McCall's legacy and his remarkable gift to Oregon.

Please protect our Urban Growth Boundary legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and the good work you do for Oregon!

Sincerely,

David P Suttle, AIA