

February 7, 2024

RE: SB 1537, Opposition to the UGB-busting aspects

Dear Oregon Senators and Representatives,

I'm old enough to realize that 50 years is not a very long time. **Let's think about our distant healthy future – at least a few hundred years out – about sustainable practices, climate change, and where we grow food on earth.**

Like you, and like Governor Kotek, I'm concerned about our lack of housing for median and low income Oregonians. We know the **issue is local, statewide, and nationwide, and has roots in federal program cuts begun in the 1980s.**

But UGB expansion is not the answer. Horribly ineffective to solving affordable housing demands, and destructive to our need of farms and forests. **There's no such thing as a one-time exception – instead, it spawns invasive offspring time and again.**

Meanwhile, median and low income **folks need access to public transit and services that are nearby.** Most desirable are infill areas **within city centers**, not at the edge. Planning tools include identifying vacant lots, fixing brownfields, rezoning, and rebuilding – in areas that **already have infrastructure available. Building density inside the cities** creates more efficient urban services, less production of greenhouse gas, and lower expenses for residents.

In Washington County, **over only 5 years, from 2012-2017, we saw the destruction of a whopping 23% of remaining farmland!** Is that ok? NO. It's not sustainable, it's not desirable. Vast acres of data centers don't even supply more jobs than farming, while gobbling vastly more water and electricity than farming needs!

Larger expansions, at the edge, are **inherently destructive to farmland and climate change.** Long term, productive farmland is more valuable to our communities than sprawling housing. Net 150 acres of housing requires another net 150 acres for **new infrastructure** – streets, sidewalks, parks and schools – all at **additional expense to our communities, and to residents.** It doesn't pencil out for our future.

We love and NEED our liveable Oregon. Our green valleys and forests are our future. Please **recognize these real needs, reconsider, and control expensive sprawl!**

Thank you.  
Faun Hosey