

February 10, 2014

Robin Jacobs  
59890 E. Marmot Road  
Sandy, OR 97055  
(503) 622-6325  
[grasmerecottage@aol.com](mailto:grasmerecottage@aol.com)

Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE – Room 347  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 1578 – Oppose

Dear Senators Arnie Roblan, and Herman Baertschiger Jr., Ginny Burdick, Betsy Close, and Floyd Prozanski ,

I am opposed to SB 1578, the “Driving Development Act”, allowing *expedited siting of industrial, manufacturing or natural resource facilities in areas of high unemployment*. I oppose this bill for the following reasons. SB 1578:

- Threatens Oregon’s vital state land-use laws, land-use regulations, and land-use decision-making routes and processes by allowing counties and cities to rewrite, modify, and tailor ordinances to accommodate and “fast-track” industrial business land-use applications.
- Threatens Oregon’s protected resource lands – forest, farm-forest, and exclusive farm lands – to become industrially developed by allowing establishment of factories, warehouses, mills, mines, power-generating facilities, and others on resource lands, and by allowing industrial facilities to treat (chemically treat), process, and manufacture materials into products on resource lands (just as SB 1575, *allowing establishment of facility utilizing raw logs on forest and farm-forest resource lands*, allows).
- Serves to limit and block communities, the public and public entities from the land-use application and decision-making process.
- Serves to block or remove critical land-use reviews.
- Serves to block or remove local land-use hearings and state-level appeals.
- Places land-use planning and control in the hands of a few, and provides unparalleled land-use authority, power, and control to county and city officials.
- Risks land-use application decisions and “ordinance revisions” becoming politically based and driven, and state land-use laws, regulations, and planning being avoided or evaded.

SB 1578 is a radical bill attempting to dismantle or bypass state land-use planning and goals, state land-use laws and regulations, and land-use application processes. The bill attempts to

limit public input and participation, and remove opportunities for local and state appeals. The bill attempts to gain access to and allow industrial development on forest, farm-forest, and exclusive farm resource lands. The bill attempts to provide county and city officials with the ability to change, modify, and design ordinances around and for industrial businesses and their land-use applications, regardless of public, land, and environmental cost. The bill gives industrial-business applicants infrastructure priority and preference, and favorable incentives and treatment, also at public expense and cost.

This bill, like SB 1575, poses serious threat to state land-use laws, planning, regulations, and processes. As a resident of Clackamas County, I find this bill deeply disturbing and alarming.

I sincerely hope the Senate Committee shares these and other concerns and opposes this bill.

Respectfully,

Robin Jacobs