



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

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Making Great Communities Happen

February 13, 2015

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association on SB 534

Dear Chair Beyer, Members of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation,

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) represents over 800 professional and citizen planners in the State of Oregon and offers this testimony in opposition to SB 534. For the following reasons OAPA advocates a Do Not Pass recommendation from the Committee.

1. There is no need for this legislation. The Legislature is not required to act to solve a problem, because none exists. An airport can obtain urban water and sewer services by agreeing to be annexed to a city. The bill does not solve a larger problem shared by a group of airports or airport owners who are seeking a change in state law.
2. The legislation is contrary to State law. Statewide Planning Goal 11 prohibits the extension of sewer service from areas within an urban growth boundary to areas outside of an urban growth boundary. The extension of sewer service is only allowed under a very limited set of circumstances. The Statewide Planning Program itself is predicated upon protecting the State's farmland by directing urban growth into cities. This bill would allow urban development to take place outside of an urban growth boundary, without any improvements to the state's transportation system, and to the detriment of the farmers and rural land owners who live near the Aurora Airport.
3. The bill would have the effect of increasing the impacts on the adjacent farm and commercial agricultural uses around the Aurora Airport. The Statewide Planning program intentionally limits the introduction of urban uses in areas designated for farm use so that both family farms and larger commercial agricultural operations can operate without interference from more intensive urban uses. One of the purposes of exclusive farm use zones was to establish areas where farm uses were permitted outright and afforded greater protection from other land uses that would generate traffic, compete for water, or attempt to limit farms from operating because of their characteristics such as spraying fertilizers, irrigation, or harvesting crops.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Franklin'.

Jason Franklin, AICP, President
Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association