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**Testimony to the Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood
SB 1575**

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

OEC opposes SB 1575: Erodes protections for working farm and forest lands

Oregon faces a housing crisis that demands action. Across the state, too many Oregonians struggle to find housing they can afford in safe and healthy neighborhoods. Unfortunately, SB 1575 does not currently offer a set of economically feasible solutions to this statewide crisis and undermines existing protections for working farm and forest lands near urbanized areas.

The expansion of urban growth boundaries as proposed under SB 1575 is already provided under existing state law. Local governments already have the option to adjust their urban growth boundaries to ensure that there are sufficient buildable lands for residential use over the next 20 years under ORS 197.296.

Additionally, the approach proposed under SB 1575 creates circumstances that just don't pencil out for affordable housing project developers or local governments – increasing development and infrastructure costs that make affordable housing projects impractical. Given the infrastructure costs necessary to facilitate the construction of affordable housing at the urban fringe under SB 1575, the proposed legislation fails to promote housing options in neighborhoods that are near existing, cost effective transit and active transportation infrastructure. It attempts to promote land development at the edge of urban areas, which will result in more driving - and more carbon emissions and air pollution.

Finally, SB 1575 fails to repeal the statewide ban on Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) which is a basic tool used by local governments across the United States to help create vibrant communities with housing options for everyone.