

To the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation:

I urge you to reject SB1588. This bill poses a serious danger to Oregon's farmlands and natural resources. It may sound good to help struggling counties, but the reality will be far different.

This bill would allow sprawling subdivisions on lands that have been in continuous farm or forest use for generations or that have other important natural resource values. And taking those lands out of production will cost jobs for the very rural Oregonians that it claims to assist.

It makes no sense to me that we would overrule the laws for most of Oregon simply because they have not been growing. Not all growth is good! This bill would allow certain counties to re-designate all resource lands for development even if they are still in active production or are vital for wildlife. That seems very harmful to local economies.

No doubt SB1588 will create a windfall for some developers. But please resist their rationalizations for disarming Oregon laws and stand up for the farmers, the forests, and the countryside.

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