

TO: Chair Beyer and members of the Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

DON'T ABANDON LAND USE LAWS ESSENTIAL FOR OREGON'S PROSPERITY. VOTE NO ON SB 1588.

**Oregon's land use pattern is good for business.**

SB 1588 would harm resources that are the reason people relocate to Oregon. It would disrupt wildlife habitat and corridors and reduce wildlife-related tourism. In Deschutes County, travel-generated expenditures in 2008 for hunting, fishing and wildlife watching here were \$69.8 million. (Source: ODFW Dean Runyan report). Statewide, wildlife-dependent tourism totaled \$776.4 million in 2006. (Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Dept., 2008).

**Oregonians want land use laws preserved.** The [Oregon Values and Beliefs Project survey](#) showed two-thirds of Oregonians support conserving productive farm and forest land for those uses, and directing growth into existing urban areas rather than sprawling into the countryside. The survey found broad support for the state's effort to manage growth, such as development restrictions and the requirement to establish growth boundaries that have preserved stark boundaries between urban and rural Oregon.

**Farmland: they ain't making it anymore.**

One out of eight jobs in Oregon is agriculture-related. And as much as two million acres of America's farms, ranches, forests, wildlife habitat, and other open spaces are lost to fragmentation and development each year, with significant implications for water resources, outdoor recreation, wildlife, rural economies, and other resources. (Source: 2013 federal report, [Challenges & Opportunities in U.S. Agriculture](#)). Oregon would be VERY smart to keep protecting farmland, as it will become more and more valuable to our well-being over time.

**It shouldn't be development interests alone that decide how housing and growth occurs in rural communities.**

But this is what will happen if you allow the land use exemptions in SB 1588. Keep ALL citizens in low-growth counties in the driver's seat on decisions affecting farmland, economic development, transportation, housing, wildlife, habitat, and management of natural hazards.

Our land use laws have preserved the landscapes that draw both visitors and new residents. Don't tamper with them. Stay the course. VOTE NO ON SB 1588.

Thank you for considering my views,

Merry Ann Moore

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