

Dear Subcommittee,

Please stop the assault on Oregon's rural lands. While rural areas have had slow economic recovery, subdivisions are not the answer. They are a band-aid that obscures, but does not solve the real problems that plague rural economies - that the federal farm bill does very little for farming families, and instead serves processors like Monsanto and Tyson.

More subdivisions destroy the value of cities and towns - places where expensive infrastructure is concentrated in order to provide farms and working forests with labor, markets, and education and training hubs. Oregon has been a pioneer in smart growth and preservation of critical natural resources when other states have sprawled until their rivers run dry (<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-colorado-river-runs-dry-61427169/>). While other states have sprawled in ways that made public transit expensive and impractical, raising the cost of living for their residents (<https://www.perc.org/articles/how-can-cities-reverse-urban-sprawl-increase-transit-use-reduce-emissions>). While other states allowed their beaches to be bought and developed, leaving average citizens without access to the coast - a place where, thanks to Oregon's conservationist land use policy, I spent this past Spring Break hiking and contributing to rural tourism economies.

Oregon legislators made better choices to protect the natural legacy that our children will depend on. Please continue to do so, and reject these bills that would pave the way to endless sprawl.

Sincerely,
Dani Schulte
PSU Graduate Student
Oregon Native