

Respected Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

I ask you to please stop advancing SB 432, SB 602, SB 608, SB 612, and SB 618. While more certainly needs to be done to support economic recovery in rural Oregon, these bills are not a way to achieve that goal. Opening up raw land in rural Oregon limits the land for agricultural use - Oregon's 2nd largest economic driver. It is also a very expensive way to welcome businesses, since local governments will have to supply the infrastructure to these raw lands.

Instead, rural areas can focus on filling in low density regions within their boundaries, making for more vibrant towns. And the state can invest in smart growth incentives, like transportation and transit infrastructure, value-added production, education and work force training, communications infrastructure, and research and development of new products that take advantage of rural Oregon's assets. These are targeted solutions. The wholesale expansion of urban areas for costly development that permanently destroys working lands is a blunt and short-sighted instrument.

For these reasons, I urge you to stop advancing SB 432, SB 602, SB 608, SB 612, and SB 618.

Sincerely,  
Nellie McAdams  
6435 NE Going St.  
Portland, OR 97218  
971.409.6806