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Subject: No on SB 432 and SB 602
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Dear Chair Dembrow and all members of Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

Thank you for reading this testimony which I submit in lieu of a personal appearance. I do wish I could get to Salem and speak to you face to face.

I want to say a few words about Oregon's land Use Laws. I live in very small town in eastern Oregon. A VERY small town. A few years ago our population was 164. Today it is less. It is beautiful country, and the framers and ranchers work harder then anyone I have ever witnessed. But the town is shrinking. We once had an elementary school, but a few years ago it conflated into the school system in a "larger" town (population 288) 12 miles away. As you can imagine, without a school, my town will not be drawing young families as it is a tough, and possibly dangerous, school bus commute in winter. Now, in the last years, this "larger" town has dropped its own population by 2.

Families are moving out. Generations are not carrying on their hundred year traditions. They are moving to the cities, both large and small. However, what remains here, vibrant and incredibly alive, is each town's culture and community. And what makes the culture carry on, is the land. Without the protection of the land, these gems of small towns would dissolve entirely. And without these small rural towns, Oregon would not be Oregon. It would be less of itself.

It is important to remember that this is happening all over the country, not just in Oregon. It is, indeed, happening all over the world: mass migration to cities and bigger towns. But Oregon has been pretty smart in establishing the Oregon Land Use Laws that work to preserve our beautiful state, mostly on the east side of the mountains. I am proud of these laws and they are absolutely not the reason rural populations are dwindling. The are the reason rural culture still remains.

Thank you for reading and submitting this letter.

Please Note: I oppose SB 432 and SB 602.

Yours,

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