

Hello members of the Rules Committee

SB-10 is a very important piece of legislation, that will serve an important role as a part of a larger housing strategy. SB-10 would allow the building of denser housing near frequent bus lines, which would help to slow suburban sprawl, as by increasing access to quality transit it will help reduce our green house gas emissions.

Unfortunately this bill, as amended, will exclude the Portland region. Senator Courtney's reasoning for this as I understand it, is that Metro has the authority to set these sort of requirements. While this is true, Metro hasn't been willing to set these rules, and I don't believe they are likely to in the near future. For this reason I ask that this committee remove Section 2(5)(b) of amendment SB 10-3. The removal of this section will expand the bill to encompass the Portland region.

I also ask that the committee insert a line into this bill that will require Metro to draft and adopt density requirements near light rail. This bill doesn't need to determine what those densities are, rather it's just pushing them to use the powers that the legislature granted them decades ago. Below is an example of what this requirement may look like.

"Before June of 2021, The Metropolitan Service District must create and adopt an ordinance which sets the lowest allowed densities that cities and counties within it's district must allow within a half mile of light rail and Bus Rapid Transit stations."

Thanks,

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