

815 Washington Street  
Oregon City, Oregon 97045  
March 17, 2023

RE: SB 1051

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to urge you to not pass SB 1051. The foundation of Oregon's land use planning program is proposed to be undermined for short term gain.

The tools already available under our current laws have proven to quickly produce more housing that's well-located near schools, stores, transit, and parks – allowing more diverse and affordable housing in every neighborhood, expedited processes for housing development, and funding for infrastructure, all inside UGBs.

Urban reserves are predetermined areas where a UGB will expand when there's a demonstrated need for additional urban land. Urban reserves allow cities to do long-range infrastructure, financial, and land use planning for a city's future. The process allows for information to be evaluated under a fair process. However, there are no guarantees.

Local governments, through a thoughtful community-wide have designated urban reserves in many areas, such as around Oregon City and the other 240 cities in this state. This bill undermines those public efforts.

Over the last 5 (five) year—Oregon cities approved 35 expansions, most all of them completed at the city level, in well under a year, with no appeal (only two were appealed). If cities face a need for any type of housing, the current, comprehensive process works; there is no need to bypass the law.

Urban reserves are vetted through a broad public process and are mutually designated by a city and county, often with a concept of how and when the land would be used if it were added to the UGB. SB 1051 would allow an individual to attempt to override the will of the community. This bill would negate the public process which we all rely on under the State's land use planning laws. The bill proposes that the UGB expansions will be driven by individual private landowners, not the time tested and proven public process. SB 1051 would allow an individual to attempt to override the will of the community and the land use planning laws we have grown to trust.

I have spent the last 25 years of my career as land use planner in Oregon. Our land use laws have proven the test of time and have allowed for orderly growth in our cities. Just look at our neighboring states. Unregulated growth, does not make for livable cities and the orderly expansion of public facilities and services

The process has been able to withstand some foolish attempts to weaken the laws that help Oregon stay Oregon. Please respect the process. Vote no on SB 1051, and don't let our state become like every place else, preserve and protect Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

*Denyse C. McGriff*

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Mayor, City of Oregon City