

Submitter: Darin Henry

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1051

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Dear Chair Jama and Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

I've lived in Eugene for over 31 years. I am a recently retired Campus Supervisor from Sheldon High School where I advised the Environmental Club for 14 years. I'm also a founding member of Oregon Educators for Climate Education, the originators of SB 854, Oregon's K12 Climate Education Bill. And, I oppose SB 1051.

Oregon State University's Climate Report on Oregon states, "If greenhouse gas emissions continue at current levels, annual temperature in Oregon is projected to increase by 5 degrees by the 2050s and 8.2 degrees by the 2080s. Oregon's agricultural, fishing, tourism and recreational economies are at risk, making it imperative that all Oregonians, in cities and rural communities alike, understand their roles as stewards of this land." The idea of expanding the Urban Growth Boundaries is in stark contrast to the science of resilience, adaptation, and stewardship. Those behind this cynically attempted land grab are preying on the fact that Oregon truly does need more housing.

Oregon needs well planned, science based, nodal communities. This means building on land available within the UGB, and building up, with ample retail and housing combined to reduce the need for driving.

According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, "forty percent of Oregon's total greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation emissions. We're working with multiple partners throughout the state to reduce that number -- following the Oregon Statewide Transportation Strategy: A 2050 Vision for GHG Reduction"

Let us not forget the Federal Carbon Reduction Program, a new federal program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that will provide Oregon \$82 million over five years to fund projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. SB 1051 flies in the face of the United States' plans to reduce carbon emissions.

The land outside of the UGBs would best serve Oregonians if dedicated to restorative farming practices that sequester carbon, reducing emissions and the need for

transporting food from long distances. To the extent that food needs to be trucked into Oregon our state becomes dependent on others. Growing as much food at home makes Oregon independent and resilient. Growing food closer to home is a prime example of Climate Adaptation, a wise and prudent investment. Growing food close to home is congruent with the science based learning concepts being taught in Oregon's schools. Paving over open land also increases surface temperatures, degrades water quality and further shrinks wildlife habitat.

Oregon needs well planned nodal communities. This means building on land available within the UGB, and building up, with ample retail and housing combined to reduce the need for driving.

Healthy land is profitable land. The Oregon housing crisis deserves state of the art urban planning that takes into consideration climate adaptation, community resiliency, food and water security, and sustainability for our children's future, not sprawl. I ask that this committee reject SB 1051.

Thank you for your dedication to all that is Oregon.

Sincerely,

Darin Henry  
Eugene, Oregon.