

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

From: Aileen Kaye

Date: 3-20-23

Re: "No" on SB 1051-2

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson and Members of the Committee,

I am asking that you not move SB 1051-2 out of committee. It would greatly erode our current land use planning system—a system that works. It would result in the loss of more farm land. This bill is not needed or wanted.

I have horses and I hate to see the constant attempts by land developers to swallow up more farm land. I am also an Area Advisor in my county as part of **Goal 1, citizen involvement** and I thus see many land use permit applications and know the results. We need to save the farm land we have left. Once it is gone, it is gone!

Land developers are trying to take advantage of the call for affordable housing by distorting what the solution should be. These developers have no interest in building low cost housing. They are simply salivating over farm land they think they can open up now for housing developments by throwing around the term, "affordable housing". Oregon has enough land within the UGB's already.

**A recent poll published by DHM research found:**

**"Fully 71% of Oregonians said they would oppose allowing local governments to permit housing developments in areas currently protected as farm and forestlands, according to the new poll."**

Also, when candidate Tina Kotek was asked April 28, 2022 if she would pledge to uphold Oregon's land use laws she said:

“I believe in our land use system. I think the vast majority of Oregonians do. It’s what’s special about our state. We want to protect our farms, our forests, and control sprawl. That is really important.”

This session is moving too quickly, the public has little access to the building, and the majority of Oregonians have no idea that bills that would drastically reduce our quality of life are being proposed and some passed. This is legislation that could result in the Californication of Oregon.

I agree with the statement made in today’s written testimony by Robert Emmons, President of LandWatch Lane County:

“SB 1051 is another attempt to weaken our nationally renown land use system that depends on comprehensive planning, statutes, rules, codes and citizen participation in every phase. These in turn require the vigilance of state legislators to cull bills intended to subvert these checks and balances.”

Please to do not pass this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration.