



To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

From: Julia DeGraw, Oregon Conservation Network, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Date: 3/20/2023

RE: OPPOSITION of SB 1051 (and amendments), Premature Urban Growth Expansion

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on SB 1051 and amendments. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and the Oregon Conservation Network's strong opposition to passing SB 1051 and amendments. SB 1051 is a bill of concern in the OCN Hotlist of Bills for the 2023 Legislative Session.

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV). OCN is a coalition of 42 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN is powered by tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations. We work to promote policies that will ensure a better Oregon for our children – and to fight policies that do not.

This session, much excellent, bi-partisan work has focused on the policies and tools we need to solve Oregon's housing crisis most effectively. SB 1051 isn't one of these.

In addition to all of the reasons mentioned throughout this written testimony for opposing this bill, I would like to express that those who drafted this bill failed to reach out to important stakeholders including Oregon cities, affordable housing advocates, environmental and land use organizations, and many others. This is a bad process for trying to pass legislation the proponents claim is to solve Oregon's housing crisis. It is disappointing to see the total lack of good-faith effort to work with advocates who deeply care about our state in the process of drafting this legislation.

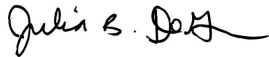
That said, SB 1051 would undermine the sensible planning tool of urban reserves by allowing premature UGB expansions. The bill is contrary to the urban reserve provisions in HB 2001, just passed by the House by a large, bipartisan margin. This bill would also pull cities' time and resources away from more effective, comprehensive housing solutions, and allow UGB expansions that are driven by individual private landowners, not a public process. It also incentivizes citing workforce housing on the edge of a city, far away from services and jobs and further exacerbating cities' serious issues related to a lack of resources for necessary infrastructure.

The whole point of identifying urban reserves is to make a city's next UGB expansion easier, because the hard work of identifying which lands the UGB will expand onto next has been done. UGB expansions

should be based on need for more land, not the desires of a private landowner. If a city has a need for more land for housing, it should look inside its existing UGB first. If there's no land available there, it should expand its UGB, and if it has urban reserves, it will expand there first. So, this bill is a solution in search of a problem.

Oregon's communities need more housing for families with incomes below or at the area median. Instead of the urban sprawl that SB 1051 proposes, let's focus on tools proven to quickly produce more housing that's well-located near schools, stores, transit, parks and the services Oregonians need.

Sincerely,



Julia B. DeGraw

Coalition Director

Oregon Conservation Network, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Testimony Submitted On behalf of all the OCN Member Organizations:

1000 Friends of Oregon, Association of Oregon Recyclers, Audubon Society of Portland, Beyond Toxics, Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Food Safety, Central Oregon LandWatch, Climate Solutions, Defenders of Wildlife, Deschutes River Alliance, Engineers for a Sustainable Future, The Environmental Center, Environment Oregon, Food & Water Watch, Friends of Mount Hood, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Friends of Family Farmers, Greater Hells Canyon Council, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Native Fish Society, Neighbors for Clean Air, Oceana, Oregon Coast Alliance, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Land and Water Alliance, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, Oregon Wild, Renewable Northwest, Rogue Riverkeeper, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, The Street Trust, Surfrider Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Tualatin Riverkeepers, WaterWatch of Oregon, The Wetlands Conservancy, Wild Salmon Center, Zero Coalition