

Submitter: Abraham Sutfin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

I am a farmer in Dundee, and I grew up in Pittsburgh, PA. I love Oregon's land use system because it allows us to have clear boundaries for our cities, forests and farms. Have you been to Pennsylvania? It's nothing like Oregon. There is no organization to the land uses there. There are houses and towns everywhere. It seems like it was never thought about ahead of time.

I support most of SB1537. I think we should prioritize affordable housing within EXISTING urban growth boundaries, support climate-smart incentives, build houses with accountability, and prioritize livable, walk-(bike)able neighborhoods.

I do not, however, support the amendment to HB1537 that unnecessarily uses loopholes to expand UGBs. We have 10,000 acres in Oregon within our UGBs that could be built into affordable homes for blue collar workers, farm stewards and houseless people. These are marginalized people who need the housing the most. Sprawling our communities accentuates the disparities in our communities. Further, it takes away from our farmlands and forests that we need to preserve so desperately in the face of habitat destruction and a changing climate.

I hope Oregon stays the way Oregon is and that we don't end up like California or east coast states, like Pennsylvania. Once we expand these UGBs, we can never return to the way we have it now.