

Submitter: Prof Susan Lea Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

Good morning,

I am a professor of environmental and natural resources law at Willamette University. I am also a long-standing advocate on behalf of the homeless.

I oppose SB 1537 in its current form because it unnecessarily changes Oregon law on urban growth boundaries. Please amend this otherwise meritorious bill to remove that provision.

We need desperately need to strengthen our urban growth boundary provisions, not weaken them. They play a critical role in protecting Oregon farms and forests from urban sprawl.

Changing them to "help the house the homeless" is a cynical ploy by land investors and developers to quickly make land on the margins of the UGB into developable land, and thereby rapidly reap profits off those investments.

Our urban growth boundary provisions are designed to maintain a 20 year supply of developable land. No change of UGBs are necessary to assure that adequate land is available to house the homeless and everyone else.

Please do not fall for this nonsense that only lines the pockets of the rich and does nothing to solve the real problems affecting the homeless.

Thank you,  
Susan Lea Smith