

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Chair Senator Kaye Jama,
Vice-Chair Senator Dick Anderson
Senator Tim Knopp
Senator Deb Patterson
Senator Janeen Sollman

Re: SB 1537

I appreciate all the effort and work placed in SB 1537 to help address the housing needs of Oregonians. It recognizes the greatest barrier to cities; counties and the private sector is the lack of infrastructure to utilize the lands currently within our urban growth boundaries.

Oregon laws require a 20 year land supply for housing and thereby the associated lands for industry and jobs. It does not require those lands be ready for development. This has always been a weakness as our cities and counties have not been supported in making the lands within UGB's actually buildable. SB 1537, if passed, will help to fill some of the gaps.

What is not useful however is the provision for adding additional lands to existing urban growth boundaries. These lands by their very definition lack the needed infrastructure to be useable. Worse, if these lands are added to the UGB, they dilute the efforts within those very UGB's by competing with resources necessary for urban development.

I believe the provision of adding lands, outside of the normal process, should be removed. These lands are not necessary as cities and counties are already required to have a 20 year land supply. If this provision is retained, the addition should become part of the normal process and not go beyond the 20 year land supply.

Thank you,

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