

Submitter: Tonya Light

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

Please amend SB 1537 to reject the expansion of urban growth boundaries. Oregon's internationally important farm and forestry lands should not be sacrificed to greed. Once these large parcels of land are broken up for further new housing developments, they will not provide reasonable profitability for the farm families we value and need. Nor will they provide the beauty and respite that helps make the vagaries of modern life bearable. The beauty of forested and rural Oregon is something that should be cherished and protected in perpetuity. Many current Oregon residents fled their beloved State of California after overdevelopment of their communities failed to deliver "affordable" housing, but instead brought overcrowding, a loss of civility, increasing crime and a much greater tax burden. I can't believe that most Oregonians would want that to happen here.

As I drive around Salem, I notice the numerous "For Rent" & "Vacancy" signs in front of streams of apartment buildings. In view of all the new construction, have rent prices fallen enough to make these units "affordable" at no more than a third of a worker's income? Not according to renters, struggling to save for a home. This bill is not addressing what makes housing affordable, it only serves to expand urban creep into smaller, more livable communities.

Thank you.