



Oregon

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House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301
Via: email



Subject: Departmental Interpretation of the Term "Developed"

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Andersen,
and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide clarity on the department's interpretation of the term "developed" in the context of SB 1537 (2024).

The department has determined that rural residential lands brought into the urban growth boundary (UGB) in the last 20 years, even if they have not developed further, are to be considered "developed" for purposes of the one-time urban growth boundary expansions allowed under SB 1537. This determination applies to the department's assessment of applications under SB 1537 when evaluating whether 75 percent of the land in a UGB expansion area from within the last 20 years is considered "developed" under Section 52(1)(b)(A).

This is based upon recent guidance from the Oregon Department of Justice that in the absence of a definition in statute or rule, DLCD's must rely on the dictionary definition of the term "developed," which, according to Merriam-Webster, is "to make suitable for commercial or residential purposes."

Please let us know if you have any further questions or concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

Brenda Ortigoza Bateman, Ph.D.
Director

cc: Alexis Hammer, JD, DLCD Legislative and Policy Manager
Adam Marl, DLCD Legislative and Policy Coordinator