

February 5 2026

Re: SB1564 Woodburn UGB expansion

Dear Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Munoz, Rep. Andersen, Rep. Mannix and the Committee on Housing and Development

My name is Kathaleen B Parker, from Senate District 10 in South Salem, and I oppose SB1564 directly expanding the City of Woodburn's urban growth boundary (UGB) to include 100+ acres of land.

Loss of Farmland: The expansion targets high-value, productive farmland that is considered irreplaceable.

Override of Land Use Laws: The bill is described as a "supersiting" action, which skips the traditional, comprehensive local planning and zoning process, limiting public participation.

Efficiency: Concerns exist that this method avoids the required, more land-efficient analysis that encourages building inside existing UGBs first.

I support more affordable housing for Oregon's middle class, including students and farm workers.

Over the last six years I have seen acres and acres of vacant business sites in and around Salem, Keizer and Woodburn. Can't the county of Marion prioritize urban infill by utilizing "brownfield" or vacant urban areas to boost housing density, rather than expanding UGBs into high-value agricultural land?

Building within city limits reduces the need for expensive new infrastructure (roads, sewage, utilities) compared to expanding into rural areas.

Preserving farmland is crucial for the state's agricultural economy, please support inside the existing UGB and protect agriculture resources.

Thank you for your time and support,

Kathaleen B Parker, Willamette Valley, Oregon