

Submitter: John Dilles
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Dear Chair Pham and Committee Members:

I am writing today to ask you to oppose SB 1522-1. Here's why I hope you will:

SB 1522-1 removes one of the key pillars of Oregon's land use system: The "prioritization scheme" that ensures a balance between accommodating urban uses and protecting the state's amazingly productive farm and forest lands. Today, if a city determines they want to designate urban reserves for possible future expansion of its urban growth boundary, the city must consider several factors and balance development and urbanization with preserving our farm and forest lands. This bill ends that balance in favor of sprawling urban areas.

My wife and I have been donors to 1000 Friends of Oregon for more than 20 years, because Oregon's land use policy has protected agricultural and forest lands. We own a house on 6 acres of land of which 5 acres are in forest deferral. We manage the forest, and have selectively logged the land and replanted it. The harvest proceeds provided tax receipts to the state of Oregon, and help made forestry sustainable for us and others in the long term. We have also helped to start the Muddy Creek Charter school, which is rurally located and helps connect K-6 students with the agricultural and forest lands surrounding the school.

Oregon has the best land-use planning regulations of all the western states, and it has deterred urban sprawl and highway congestion, evident in California & Washington, while preserving ag/forest land. The planet has only so much ag and forest land that is fast disappearing, and once developed, land is not returned to ag and forest. Please keep Oregon a leader in public land-use planning, which should be done thoughtfully and with long-term benefit in mind.

Thank you for considering my comments; I hope you will say "no" to SB 1522-1.

Sincerely,

John Dilles