

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

From: Dean Moberg, Principal – Gash Gold Vermilion Natural Resources Consulting, LLC

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

RE: Opposition to SB-1522-1, “OHCS housing study”

Chair Pham, esteemed members of the Committee:

I am writing today to ask you to oppose SB 1522-1.

For over 50 years I have worked on farms or with farmers. When I was younger, I worked on a variety of farms that produced vegetables, fruit crops, milk, hogs, hay, and maple syrup, and later enjoyed a successful 35-year career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I now own and operate a small consulting firm that helps Oregon farmers plan and implement conservation projects to conserve soil and water resources, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I co-authored *The Soils of Oregon*, a reference book published by Springer Nature as part of the World Soils Book Series.

I serve on the Cedar Mill Farmers Market Board and on the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District Board. My testimony here is on my behalf alone and not on behalf of any board on which I serve.

The -1 Amendment to SB 1522 is deeply disturbing:

- The amendment states “The designation of urban reserves under subsection (1)(b) of this section must not be based on existing land uses or soil type...”
- This proposed change to processes originating from Oregon’s historic Land Use Act of 1973 will result in the loss of irreplaceable farmland that could remain productive far into the future. This farmland loss will hurt farmers and agriculture, reduce food production, take away the open spaces Oregonians love, impact wildlife habitat, and reduce carbon sequestration.
- I was recently on a tour with a highly respected State Senator who stated that we must have honest conversations about land use issues. I fear that the SB 1522-1 amendment, which changes a proposed housing study into a significant alteration of land use planning, will not be perceived as an honest approach to the issues. Especially disappointing is that this -1 amendment occurs halfway through the legislative session.

Please oppose SB 1522-1.

Thank you for taking my testimony, and thank you for your service to Oregon