

February 11, 2026

Dear Chair Pham and Committee Members:

I am writing to strongly urge you to oppose SB 1522-1.

I have been an Oregon resident for over 20 years. The other state I spent a significant amount of my life was growing up in Colorado. I recently visited Colorado and was both shocked and distraught to see how poorly it has managed its sprawling growth compared to Oregon. The biggest difference in land use management between the two states is Oregon has required cities to rigorously plan and determine boundaries for future growth. This has created a variety of beneficial outcomes including preserving high value agricultural and forest land, encouraging density that leads to a variety of housing types, lowering infrastructure and service costs, and promoting alternative types of transportation.

Currently when cities designate urban reserves for possible future expansion of their urban growth boundaries, they must consider multiple factors that balance development and urbanization with preserving our farm and forest lands. SB 1522-1 would severely weaken this system of purposeful planning and setting boundaries by prohibiting the consideration of "existing land uses or soil type". Eliminating these factors opens the door to sprawling development on our most productive farm and forest lands, rather than driving it adjacent to cities and on less productive resource lands.

I have come to love this state in part due to its thoughtful management of its land and resources. The evidence of its success can be seen visually when comparing the landscapes of Oregon and Colorado.

Please do not discard Oregon's hard fought success over the last 50 years by passing SB 1522-1!

Thank you for considering my comments.

-Robb Wolfson  
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