

Submitter: Sarah Deumling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Senator Pham and Members of the Committee

I am a family forestland owner/manager in Polk County, having grown up on a family farm near Molalla - old enough to have witnessed the sprawl which has hollowed out the once vibrant community centers of towns like Molalla, Dallas, Woodburn and others, replacing those centers with malls on the periphery. SB 1552-1 would accelerate this trend. Who will benefit? other than those few who expect to profit financially?

To me this seems detrimental to almost all Oregonians as we face an uncertain future on many fronts. As climate change accelerates, populations grow and resource depletion continues we need to protect all our life giving natural resources (Land, clean water and clean air, green spaces in general) for our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

Housing for all is very important but I am unwilling to believe that we Oregonians can't think of less destructive, more thoughtful ways to solve this problem without continuing to gobble up close in and irreplaceable farm and forest land. How about skipping the enormous tax credits to data centers and other out-of-state corporations (who can leave when the subsidies run out) and using that money instead to incentivize pleasant, well conceived, walkable neighborhoods near revitalized town centers - ADUs, apartments, green spaces?

I urge you to let this ill conceived proposal die. The topic needs much more time for Oregonians (the stakeholders) to thoroughly consider the consequences, both the costs and the benefits.

Thank you for your service to Oregon and for the opportunity to submit comments.
Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling