

Submitter: Ann Brayfield

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

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

I am concerned that this bill removes one of the key pillars for Oregon's land use system - the prioritization scheme. This approach ensures that when communities figure out where and how to grow with their Urban Growth Boundaries and Urban Reserves, they must consider a number of factors and balance development and urbanization with preserving our farm and forest lands.

Without these sideboards in our land use system, we would see cities expand onto farm and forest lands rather than onto lands already planned and zoned for residential or commercial uses. It is critical that we support our current land use system because we need farmlands available for the young farmers who have been returning to the land and producing food. Our current land use principles protect farms, forests, open space and wildlife habitat. In the last fifteen years I have experienced these principles supporting the return of young people to farming. During summer farmers' markets in Bend most of the produce was trucked over from the Valley. With the return of young people to farming in Central Oregon very little produce comes from the Valley and the young farmers in Central Oregon are producing more and more fresh vegetables and fruit which draws more and more people to farmers' markets for their produce. In addition, these farmers have CSAs which reach more people with their produce and have waiting lists to join.

What appears to be the quick and easy allowing cities to jump straight to the "easiest" land to develop: undeveloped farm and forest land and skip other lands zoned to become a part of our cities comes at an unnecessary cost to young farmers and all of us who benefit from having healthy food close to home. Let's not be lazy when we have existing options for producing more housing.

SB 1522-1 also undermines many years of work recently completed by DLCD and stakeholders resulting in the December 2025 LCDC adoption of rules implementing the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis. Short circuiting or dismissing excellent work for producing more housing makes no sense and would be a discouragement to folks who have invested much time in a workable solution. It seems like unnecessarily throwing out the baby with the bath water as we go for what appears to be quick and easy when we already have well thought out solutions that also support our land use principles.

Please reject SB 1522-1. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Brayfield
Bend