

Submitter: Dawn Nafus

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Land use planning exists for a reason.

Farmland and forests are special places where carbon can be captured and where people can go to enjoy themselves. They are valuable because they are neither city nor sprawl. I have lived in Oregon for over two decades, but grew up in rural New Jersey where I saw this basic distinction collapse. The woods I once played in as a child were taken over by a sea of McMansions and big box stores. The idea of "countryside" no longer exists there.

By prohibiting cities from treating farm and forestland as the growth areas of last resort, Oregon will become the next New Jersey. The economics make this absolutely unavoidable. This bill will only serve as a gift to land speculators, and as a result will set housing affordability backwards, not forwards.

Sincerely,
Dawn Nafus