

Submitter: Camille Hall
On Behalf Of: urban resident and local foods consumer
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Testimony in opposition to SB 1522-1

Senate Committee on Housing & Development
Chair Pham and Committee Members:

I urge you to vote “No” on SB 1522-1 as amended.

SB 1522, with the -1 amendment, will overturn cities’ authority to make planning decisions based on Oregon’s hallmark land use statute SB100, which provides for preservation of farm land, especially around urban growth boundaries. Amendment - 1 has the effect of negating much of the intent of SB 1522.

Under Oregon’s current land use program, which has guided us for over 50 years, whenever Oregon communities need to expand their UGBs or urban reserves, they must consider a number of factors that balance urbanization needs with preserving farm and forest lands.

The -1 amendment to SB 1522 would prohibit cities, when designating urban reserves, from considering soil types or existing land uses (such as farming), and instead directs that cities go to lands that are “easiest” to urbanize. This change would target flat, well-drained farmland, allowing cities to expand their UGB and reserves into the best farmland first.

Adopting SB 1522 -1 would throw out the years-long work recently completed by the Department of Land Conservation and Development and stakeholders, which resulted in the December 2025 adoption of Land Conservation and Development Commission rules implementing the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis.

In addition to the agricultural imperative to preserve these urban farmlands for future food production, rural landscapes define and separate our cities, enhance their livability and provide visual links to nature and to agriculture, Oregon’s #2 industry.

Farmlands connect urban dwellers to their roots and to their rural counterparts, connect urban consumers with local producers at roadside farmstands, u-pick fields and tree farms. These urban-adjacent farmlands prevent the sprawl that characterizes other Western states.

Please act now to keep Oregon, Oregon. I urge you to uphold the tenets of Oregon’s

landmark SB 100 and the LCDC rules implementing the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis and vote “No” on SB 1522-1.

Sincerely,
Camille Hall