

Submitter: Dominic DiPaolo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

In addition to my previous comment on SB 1522, this proposed bill's prohibition on cities from considering soil types or existing land uses (such as farming) when designating urban reserves completely undermines the efficacy of Oregon's land use systems that has balanced urban development with forest and farmland protection for the last 50 plus years and should be opposed. The fundamental value of having a land use system that directs cities to plan expansion out from the existing urban core towards lower value resource land is that it protects the highest value resource land (i.e. high value farm soils that are not infinite) and limits sprawl into these areas. It encourages efficient land use through a democratic process that considers the livability of all residents, not just those who stand to economically benefit from proposed land use changes. It's why Oregon looks and feels the way it does and why we maintain a healthy and picturesque rural character interspersed with great towns and cities to live in. Oregon is going to continue to experience population growth and demands to develop new commercial and industrial areas over the next 40 years. Cities and towns should be encouraged, required, and given all the tools they need to direct this growth towards areas where it makes the most sense for resident's livability and natural resource protection through a robust and well thought out planning process. We're grateful that our predecessors considered these things when they planned the cities and landscapes we live in today and we should do the same for future generations that will experience the environment we create for them now. I therefore urge our Senators to oppose SB 1522 as currently conceived and encourage them to support an even more robust and conservation minded urban planning process in the future.

Thanks you for reading my comments,

Dominic DiPaolo

Ashland, Oregon