

Dear Chair Pham and committee members:

I am writing today to ask you to oppose SB 1522-1. Here's why I hope you will:

SB 1522-1 removes one of the key pillars of Oregon's land use system: The "prioritization scheme" that ensures a balance between accommodating urban uses and protecting the state's amazingly productive farm and forest lands. Today, if a city determines they want to designate urban reserves for possible future expansion of its urban growth boundary, the city must consider several factors and balance development and urbanization with preserving our farm and forest lands. This bill ends that balance in favor of sprawling urban areas. Removing the essential protections we have for farm and forest land not only threatens Oregon's natural beauty but threatens our states financial well-being. By destroying farmland in favor of urban sprawl. Agriculture makes up 13% of the states GDP and provides employment in farming and food processing for tens of thousands of Oregonians. By removing protections on our valuable farming and natural lands you would not only threaten Oregon's environment and natural beauty but also threaten the very livelihood of your citizens.

Thank you for considering my comments; I hope you will say "no" to SB 1522-1.

Sincerely,

Eli Ostrov, Natural resources major O.S.U