

Submitter: Chris Piper

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1051

Hi,

My name is Chris Piper, former City Councilor and member of COBA.

SB 1051 is an important bill to me because it will allow cities across Oregon the opportunity to designate urban reserves and create a streamlined process for growth and economic efficiencies. It will allow for businesses to actually scale because their current and future employees could actually live in the city they work and reducing VMT. SB 1051 incentivizes the use of urban reserves and will give our cities the chance to grow, build needed housing, and support essential jobs for their residents resulting in a more sustainable and robust economy. Furthermore, SB 1051 will help reduce operating costs and provide better access to capital markets and transportation routes, enabling cities to diversify their economic base. We know all too well that the great state of Oregon is in an affordable and workforce housing crisis - builders are experiencing significant barriers to producing housing units for families earning below 120% of their area median income. These homes are needed in Central Oregon for teachers, nurses, firefighters, small business owners and their employees so cities and their residents can thrive for generations to come. I support SB 1051 because it will drive deep and much needed collaboration among the City, County, community and service providers. SB 1051 will provide the opportunity, that we currently don't have, which is identifying land for housing, parks, schools and jobs needed by Oregon's growing population in the long-term future. Additionally, the bill contains a number of important sideboards. In my opinion, the most important side boards in Section 2 include that the land must retain areas designated for protection in an acknowledged comprehensive plan pursuant to open spaces, scenic and historic areas and natural resource goals. This helps balance important goals set forth by the community. Thank you for your time and to provide my comments.