

Submitter: John Pendleton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1051

I am writing to request that you vote against SB 1051. This bill would allow private landowners located in urban reserves to request an urban growth boundary (UGB) expansion while bypassing land use laws. This, along with other proposed legislation such as House Bill 3382, that would exempt Ports from local and state land use laws when constructing, maintaining, or expanding facilities on land or in waterways associated with deep draft channel improvements, and the governor's proposed ask for the right to override land use laws to site computer chip factories, are all aimed at gutting land use law by chipping away one piece at a time in the name of the popular "cause of the moment". Land use law has worked well in Oregon for years. All one has to do is compare the relatively tight boundaries of Portland metro, where the city ends and farms take over, with the sprawl of such cities as Atlanta and Houston, where a drive across the urban area can mean well over a hundred miles, to see that Oregon's land use laws have done a good job of balancing urban needs for business development and housing with preservation of farmland and forests. Continually eating away at land use laws for this and that goal will ultimately gut the entire process.

The case of SB 1051 is especially galling in that it would allow private landowners to circumvent land use laws for their own personal reasons, which, let's not kid ourselves, are spelled "development." And of course a fat profit for the landowner who manages to get this exemption. I have no problem with anyone making a profit when they follow the rules, but when they start asking for the rules to be changed only for their benefit, that is something else altogether.

Please preserve our farmland and forests. Vote against SB 1051.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Pendleton  
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