



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 20, 2023

To: Sen. Kayse Jama, Chair, Sen. Dick Anderson, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee
[Senate Committee on Housing and Development](#)

Re [SB 1051-2](#) – **Undermining Urban Growth Boundary Public Process – OPPOSE**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has strong positions in support of Oregon’s statewide land use planning program because it addresses **where we all live, work, shop and play and how we get there**. The proposed -2 amendment to SB 1051 changes Oregon’s orderly planning system by allowing an individual property owner to make their personal decision to add up to 200 acres of their personal property to Metro or a city’s Urban Growth Boundary with limited public process.

Local jurisdictions have a responsibility to plan for expansions so that the future residents will have the public services expected by communities. That is the reason for making thoughtful planning decisions: to assure infrastructure can be provided, as well as police, fire and other expected public services, and a balance of commercial amenities and other employment opportunities.

The legislature is in the process of passing significant changes to Goal 10, housing. Let us give these major process changes a chance. Take a breath. Engage Oregonians in the reasons for these new systems before supporting yet another change—this one without thoughtful planning as exists in HB 2001 (2023).

Legislators should take notice of a current poll that says Oregonians are concerned about changes. We need to focus on assuring local discussions about these new processes on housing so they embrace these new processes—and the additional housing. Opening up raw land doesn’t get us housing; it’s **buildable lots** that will help us reach our housing goals. Buildable lots take access to sewer, water and roads or sidewalks. There are many lots inside current city boundaries that could be ready for development. And there are current Urban Growth Boundary vacant lands that need facilities plans and then provision of that infrastructure that should be used first—before adding more raw land.

It is for these many reasons that **LWVOR asks you OPPOSE this bill with the -2 amendment** and instead support legislation that will help provide buildable lots on lands currently available under our land use planning system.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator