

Submitter: Bill Atherton
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB1051

Regarding your SB1051 my request is simple: Please ask yourselves if this is really the role of state government to once again involve yourselves in something the state has no business in.

The original intent of the state land use planning program was to empower and guide - not control - citizens in our communities to reign in unfettered auto-mobility with farmers and ranchers living on farms and ranches, and people with jobs in town living in town. It was a noble effort to keep the countryside beautiful and protect resources, let communities be fiscally resilient and the transportation linkages safe, sane and affordable.

Sadly our state government, at the behest of self-serving industry lobbyists - and joined now by "soft totalitarian" activists for political operators - have convinced you to be involved in something that is none of your business. This began in earnest in 1995 with the infamous HB 2709 to mandate STATEWIDE that community plans zone for a FORECAST 20-year supply of build-able land inside urban growth boundaries. Then Governor John Kitzhaber signed this monstrosity ignoring the protestations of community leaders (primarily in the Willamette Valley.) You need to know that HB 2709 became the building industry's top priority that legislative session because, in the words of one of their lobbyists, "We need to keep land in production."

This was not an effort to let citizens nurture and build THEIR livable communities. It was a measure to "keep land in production". And it most definitely has not been successful in building "affordable" housing or fostering efficient land use.

Please know that those of us who expend significant care, attention to detail and an amazing amount of effort to have decent places to raise our families, work and enjoy a close personal connection with our neighbors... are not your "production".

Give up these central planning schemes. Repeal the 20-yr. land law mandate. (Incidentally, Kurt Schrader as a state senator offered a bill to provide for NO MORE THAN a 20-yr. land supply.) Repeal state mandates that prohibit SDC's on police, fire, library, and school facilities that prevent communities from collecting the full costs of growth... and become an unfunded state mandate which legislators when at home declare they are against. Cast off the costly (and secretive) state forecasting apparatus at OSU.

And table this SB1051.

Do something brave. Stand up for the working people of this state. Focus on the legitimate work of state government like fixing the highways, protecting the resources, etc. etc. Do only the things a state should do... and do your part to try to stop the destruction of this once glorious country.