

Submitter: Sheila Dooley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

Expanding urban growth boundaries doesn't help solve Oregon's housing shortage. It makes more sense to invest in the real problem, which is the lack of infrastructure for housing within the existing UGBs, which this bill addresses.

We have land available within these existing UGBs and don't need to override Oregon's land use laws. There is already a process in place for expanding UGBs when the need is there.

In addition to vacant land within UGBs, there are also vacant and underutilized buildings, such as in The Dalles, near where I live. Infrastructure funding would make new housing possible.

Building within existing UGBs enables people to live near the services they need, which helps fight climate change. It also makes living more affordable by reducing transportation needs.

In contrast building houses in the wildland-urban interface increases fire risk and takes away land needed for agricultural and forest use. It is more expensive to live there and bring infrastructure in as it further from existing infrastructure and services.

Please amend SB 1537 and remove the UGB expansion provision.

Thank you.

Sheila Dooley