

Submitter: Jeffrey Huffman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

While this bill contains many provisions which I support, its provision that bypasses years of land use law to allow large urban growth boundary expansions skunks the whole deal.

The bill's primary objective of increasing affordable housing for all Oregon's citizens is achievable without encroaching on the farms, forests and other open spaces that make Oregon's landscape unique. Affordable housing goals can be reached by changing zoning restrictions within UGB's that allow for building density while creating vibrant, walkable and livable neighborhoods. Expansion of UGB's fosters sprawl, increased car dependency and carbon emissions, worsening an already global climate change problem. The emphasis in meeting the housing affordability issue in Oregon can be met by utilizing vacant land and underutilized buildings within existing UGBs.

To maintain Oregon's unique character, say "no" to this bill. Eliminate the provision that expands expansion of UGBs and make that the cornerstone effort to create more housing. This would be a more sensible solution.