

Submitter: Harriet Cooke

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

As a retired physician with a MPH, I have been following the climate and homelessness crises. I applaud the housing development aspect of SB 1537, but strongly suggest amendments to protect and expand carbon sequestering land opportunities.

Specifically, I support: 1) cutting the allowable variances by at least half, otherwise what is the point?

2) significantly decreasing the size of UGB expansion allowed, such as 5-10 acres rather than 75-100 acres.

Despite the situation we are in, I watch in my own inner SW neighborhood, large homes being built on spacious properties. We need to work with the land we have in more thoughtful ways, both inside and outside the UGB. We need to utilize our farm and forest lands to support their capacity to drawdown carbon, and this will not happen if we continue to encroach upon these lands with housing development, especially development that does not optimize carbon sequestration and minimize carbon footprints.

sincerely,

Harriet Cooke MD, MPH