

February 9, 2024

On behalf of the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition, an all-volunteer organization representing 500 residents in our rural community, we strongly urge you to amend SB 1537 to ensure there is no negative impact on the climate, promotes affordable housing for low and moderate income households and minimizes the effect on our precious agricultural and farm land.

Specifically, we urge you to reduce substantially the allowable expansion of the UGB. Our organization fully recognizes the desperate need for additional, affordable housing. We, therefore, ask that the bill prioritize and provide incentives for infill development to the greatest extent possible.

In the bill's current form, the large UGB expansion will promote increased automobile travel, resulting in the release of more greenhouse gas emissions. This runs counter to the State's commitment to reduce substantially its carbon pollution over the next twenty-five years.

Ironically, this large UGB expansion will actually result in less affordable housing. By imposing greater travel burdens on low and moderate income households, the resulting costs will significantly reduce the monetary gains from reduced rents. This is especially true for this demographic since they are far less likely to have affordable and reliable automobiles.

Finally, we need to maximize our efforts to protect our agricultural and farm lands. The emphasis on infill we propose will help meet this goal.

Please amend SB 1537 so we can meet the housing needs of our citizens in a sound environmental and affordable manner.

Sincerely,

Stuart Liebowitz, on behalf of the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition
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