

Submitter: Elianne Lieberman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

I am a resident of Portland. I am aware of the need to build more housing, including housing that is truly affordable for those folks who are making minimum wage, or more than one job and still not be able to pay the bills, or provide for their family.

There are many elements of this bill that I like, and I am glad it includes incentives for climate-smart building.

However, expanding the urban growth boundary, which already provides for enough land to build on for 20 years into the future, is not climate friendly. Climate change is upon us, and we need all the tools in our toolkit to reach the state's climate goals. We need all our forest lands to stay in tact to sequester carbon, and compact cities where people can bus or walk to work, play, and shop.

I have noticed that whenever they get a chance, developers do their utmost to try to get rid of laws that put any restrictions on them. They say whatever they need to to get others to believe that the answer to our problems is to get rid of the good sense laws we have enacted.

Building within the existing urban growth boundaries and infill building will provide for our existing housing needs. And will help Oregon reach our climate goals.

Eliminate the expansion of the urban growth portion of this bill. Then I will be able support it.