

Feb. 13, 2024

RE: SB 1576 (1537)

Governor and Senators:

I have followed land-use issues for over 25 years and actively fought to protect Oregon's land-use system and to protect the concept of the urban growth boundary. The UGB is what has allowed Oregon to remain beautiful and agricultural.

This bill is well intentioned, but while seeking to address the issue of housing supply does so at a heavy cost if it allows for cities to break the urban growth boundary. This bill should be amended to allow for more housing on land existing within the UGB. Cities are already required to maintain a 20 year buildable land-supply. This can only be changed by a process which requires a housing needs analysis, and a review of the city's comprehensive land-use plan, along with public review and input. This Bill should rather encourage compact development on existing land without the necessity of building more sprawl.

We have striven for years to limit sprawl onto the valuable farmlands surrounding our cities and communities. Let's not give away what makes Oregon Oregon, in the name of expediency. Amend this bill, and remove the provision allowing for expansion of the UGB. The housing issue needs to be solved but not on the back of irreplaceable farmland. Find another solution.

Yours,

Kasia Quillinan