

Submitter: Dan Jaffee
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1578

Dear Housing and Development Committee Chair and Members:

I am writing to strongly oppose SB 1578. This irresponsible bill is part of a tsunami of legislation that would dismantle various elements of Oregon's long-standing, broadly supported, and highly effective land use regulation system.

SB 1578 would override land use and environmental laws by allowing rural counties to rezone up to 50 acres of farm or forest lands for residential development, in one or several parcels, with a density of at least five houses per acres. It would also allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on farm and forest lands, with houses that are not related to farming or forestry and are nearly three times larger than what is currently allowed for rural ADUs.

The result of these two provisions will be a multitude of houses sprawling across Oregon's farm, ranch, and forest lands that are not related to farming or forestry. This will drive up the price of the land, placing it out of reach to actual farmers, ranchers, and foresters, especially new and younger ones. Under the bill, these houses can also be sited without regard to wildlife, water availability, and more, setting up more conflicts.

Please protect Oregon's land use regulations. Do not allow them to be degraded and dismantled piecemeal by legislation such as SB 1578. Please vote NO.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Dan jaffee