

2/10/2026

Senate Committee on Housing and Development

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, Members of the Committee:

My name is Tom Fessler and I am the owner of the parcel in question being considered in SB 1564. I write to you today in strong support of the bill. SB 1564 presents the rare opportunity to bring an adjacent parcel of land under single ownership into the UGB, requires affordable housing, and ultimately benefits Woodburn's farming community.

From years of being an active member of the Marion County and Woodburn agricultural community, I know that our farm workforce in Woodburn desperately needs affordable housing. Providing that housing is in fact key to our agricultural success. The parcel in question is already encircled by development and major transportation routes, making it less than ideal for continued farm operations. As a longtime nurseryman myself, I understand that conversion of exclusive farm use lands should not ever be done lightly. However, Woodburn has no buildable residential land and there is nothing but farmland surrounding the city.

You have before you a willing landowner, a community in need, and an existing process that takes too long and costs too much money. I encourage you to pass SB 1564. It's a specific solution to a specific situation that must be addressed right now.