

From: Megan Horst
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Oppose SB 432, SB 602, SB 608, SB 612, and SB 61
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 8:28:34 AM

Dear members of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to voice my **strong opposition to SB 432, SB 602, SB 608, SB 612, and SB 618**. These bills are bad for Oregon. All five of these bills attempt to remove land use planning from parts of Oregon in one way or another. These bills disincentive smart planning efforts for Eastern Oregon cities and towns. Instead of promoting smart growth, they will promote uninhibited sprawl in some of Oregon's most iconic places.

It is true that rural Oregon needs more economic development. But removing land use planning will not achieve those aims. Real community economic development is much more complex. Meanwhile, removing land use planning will lead to sprawl and more expensive infrastructure, and only a temporary boost in economic activity, not the long, sustained activity needed for true community economic development.

I contributed to a report published in fall 2016, [The Future of Oregon's Agricultural Land](#), which raised some important points that provide justification for continuing strong land use planning in Oregon, and **opposing SB 432, SB 602, SB 608, SB 612, and SB 618**. Two key points are:

1. Oregon agriculture IS economic development. Oregon farms play a key role in the economy by providing jobs, increased property values, and productive capacity. The economic impact of Oregon production agriculture was \$8.2 billion in 2015; the sector directly accounts for 4 percent of the state's employment and indirectly for 14 percent (e.g., not just production but processing, distribution, marketing, and so on).

2.. Oregon land use planning protects Oregon from sprawl, and helps keep Oregon unique. Oregon's land use protections are credited with slowing the conversion of private farm, forest and rangelands (resource lands) to low-density residential and urban uses (developed lands). The conversion rate was five times higher before the land use planning laws were implemented than during the past decade. Oregon is losing less resource land per new state resident, instead developing more compact and dense urban areas¹⁶).

I ask you to please **oppose SB 432, SB 602, SB 608, SB 612, and SB 618**. These bills are bad for Oregon.

Respectfully,

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