

Please Oppose SB 16

Friends of Yamhill County strongly opposes this bill and the further carving up of the state's resource lands. We relate to a sister county with an economy and employment based in agriculture. The state has recently invested in a major rail re-load shipping facility in Nyssa, which will greatly increase the transportation options available for area ranchers and farmers to get their products to market quickly. Taking ranch and farmland out of production seems at odds with that investment.

Allowing homes on farmland that are not related to farming is fundamentally contrary to Oregon's' land use program. Oregonians do need more diverse and affordable housing in our towns and cities, where they live and work. Luxury second homes do not meet that need and drive up prices for the residents with middle and low incomes.

Ontario has quite a bit of land available for residential development. Since 2008 there have been multiple initiatives expanding the acreage available for development. If there is a demand for housing, there is space which can facilitate the sort of mix of housing options the market needs. Pitting housing against food production is not in the best interest of either.

We appreciate the work being done this session on assessing and mapping wildfire risk. SB 16 and scattered housing development on farmland would be a step backward. It can interfere with wildlife and water resources as well.

Treating working lands as vacant is a profound failure to understand Oregon's second largest economic sector. Please do not advance this bill.

Thank you.

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