



Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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Madras, Oregon 97741
Phone 503/250/2460

February 08, 2021

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St., NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Oppose SB 16

Dear Chair Beyer and Committee Members,

Senate bill 16 is potentially very damaging to the integrity of the EFU zone. This bill will open Pandora's Box for housing development in the EFU zone that cannot be challenged. The reason that the EFU zone exists is to **protect agriculture and recognize that farmers are an industry in our own right**. The EFU zone is agriculture's industrial designated zone like industrial lands are within a UBG. Every year our county farm bureau has opposed this bill and each year that it is presented it becomes less contained in an exact site and more invasive into the EFU zone. The side boards to protect the EFU zone are words on paper and not true protection from complaints from non-farm residents that will occupy each of the proposed homes after they build their home and realize that living in an EFU zone is a noisy, dusty and industrial "ag" zone that operates very differently than the imagine of being serene, quite and pastoral as pictures try to paint living in the country.

With each house built under this bill comes the need for infrastructure to service each of the potential new 100 homes. It has proven that building homes is a cost to county governments when outside the UGB. Ontario still has 1500 acres of land within their UGB. Is there a need for this development which is supper siting? This bill will be precedent setting for all 36 counties to find a need to come to the legislature for their own version of this bill.

Oregon Farm Bureau has clear policy opposing this type of bill. As a member of the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, we are concerned with OFBF taking a neutral position where there is clear policy to oppose this bill. Note the Non Farm Dwellings Policy 3.550 and Supersiting Policy 3.790

Non Farm Dwellings

3.550

We oppose the establishment of more non farm dwellings in EFU zones on agricultural land as defined by OFBF policy. It is our position that because land has been zoned as EFU for the exclusive purpose of agricultural production, all dwellings established in that zone should be farm dwellings. Statutes referring to or providing for non farm dwellings should be repealed. Existing dwellings in EFU zones not provided in conjunction with farm use should be identified as a non conforming use.

Supersiting

3.790

We oppose the superseding of any non-farm activity that would subtract from, or adversely affect, the surrounding agricultural industry and resource base.

We encourage you to vote no on SB 16 and focus on "wildfires and Covid-19" needs to get Oregon back to a functioning State.

Sincerely,

Sue Vanek
President
Jefferson County Farm Bureau

Home of North Unit Irrigation District