

TO: House Committee on Rules

From: Aileen Kaye

Date: June 10, 2021

Subject: "No" on SB 16

Dear and Chair Smith Warner and Members of the Committee,

I hope you will vote "no" on SB 16. It flies in the face of the most basic principles of Oregon's land use laws. This bill would allow a huge housing development on exclusive farm use land.

I was hoping the bill was dead. This was a House bill in the 2019 session. At that time, Rep. Brian Clem stated that if this type of bill were to pass, it would be difficult to deny the same request from any other county. In spite of Rep. Clem's warnings, the bill passed the house floor. Fortunately, Senator Mark Hass did not give the bill a hearing when it went to his Senate Rules Committee and it died.

Since 1973, our land use laws have maintained Oregon as a bountiful and beautiful state. We are agriculturally rich. Once farm land is used for housing, it can never be restored for agricultural use.

The exclusive farm use land that Oregon has left should be preserved for agricultural uses. Food production is even more crucial than in the past due to the pandemic.

Also, EFU land is needed for livestock. I have horses and have to live in a rural area because horses are not allowed in residential zones. I need ag land for hay for our horses and places to ride. Housing developments should not be built on EFU land just because it is pretty or the county might want the tax dollars expensive homes yield. There is land available for housing inside the urban growth boundaries in the counties in question. That land is appropriate; EFU land is not.

One of the reasons given by Malheur County is that you can do all these things in Idaho. Really??? Please look up the article in the Capital Press dated 4-2-21, "Idaho county commission tables proposed ag-to-residential rezone." They cited the same problems that we are trying to tell you about.

If passed, this bill would set a very dangerous precedent, opening the door for housing developers to make special requests to the legislature every session. That's not how we keep Oregon Oregon. We keep it by following our successful land use planning system.

Please vote "no" on SB 16. Thank you for your consideration.

Aileen Kaye

