

June 10, 2021

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy & Environment:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to voice my support for SB16. My name is Paula Tankersley and I am a lifelong resident of Malheur County. My husband and I own a 20 acre of parcel in Ontario with my brother and his wife. My brother has a home on the front part of the land and we have one on the back portion, due to the current land use laws we are unable to split the property. Since I was born and raised in a farming community I am aware of how important farmland is to our economy. I am, however, perplexed by the rules that are currently in place that require small parcels, such as ours, which are not farmable due to poor soil to remain EFU. All of the small parcels in our area are zoned EFU because we are near farms not because our land is farmable.

I am concerned that the majority of opposition to this bill is from counties that would not be affected. If you do not live in Malheur County I don't feel that you can justifiably oppose this bill. I feel that it has been carefully written to preserve our very valuable farmland but still allow the development of small parcels which are zoned EFU but are not farmable due to poor soil or just because they are simply too small. Malheur County is in desperate need of housing, please support SB 16.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter in Malheur County.

Sincerely,  
Paula Tankersley