

Dear Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am writing as an Oregon farmer and Board member of 1000 Friends of Oregon to voice my strong opposition to SB 16, which circumvents the land use program and allows up to 100 homes, not related to resource use, on 200 acres of EFU lands within Eastern Oregon Border Region. I oppose this bill because:

- \* There is no need for this low-density residential expansion, which will almost certainly not be affordable housing for local residents; SB 16 would take investment away from Ontario, which has land available for residential development. Rural communities need investment now more than ever.
- \* New development on the outskirts of an urban area is many time more expensive for municipalities to provide infrastructure to, since it must be built from scratch
- \* Hundreds of scattered will interfere with agriculture and wildlife corridors.
- \* The bill disregards the fact that agriculture - a land-dependent industry - is the greatest economic driver in Malheur Co.
- \* And most importantly, it sets a dangerous precedent any time the legislature makes land use decisions outside of the established and methodical process that includes public involvement.

I urge you to vote no on this ill-advised bill.

Sincerely

Nellie McAdams