

Submitter: Thurston Inglis
On Behalf Of: Oregon Farm Bureau
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1578

TI Ranch
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Date: 2/10/2026

Subject: Oppose SB 1578

Chair Phem, Vice chair Anderson, members of the committee:

My name is Rusty Inglis, I am a rancher in the Princeton area of Harney County. I chair the livestock committee for the Oregon Farm Bureau.

I ask you to oppose SB 1578 as written. As written this bill has no guaranteed protection for existing farming and ranching operations if these housing developments are located on agriculture zoned lands next to their operations.

It doesn't require that the rezoned lands have access to structural fire protection, reliable water that won't affect nearby agriculture operations, garbage service.

At a minimal the bill should have required that the rezoned land be adjacent to the urban growth boundary, so this essential service could be meant.

If this bill is approved, land speculators would have a hay day as there are a lot of small parcels zoned agriculture in Harney County. The homes built on these remote parcels would be nothing more than trophy homes for the rich, and these parcels would not be available for existing ranching operations to expand or for the next generation of rancher to purchase and get a start in the business. The only reason these parcels haven't been bought up by ranching operations today is the owners of these parcels have them price way out of the price range for a ranching operation, just waiting for the day a bill like this would come up.

We need to protect what little agriculture land we have left for the next generation.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Thurston D. Inglis

Chair Oregon Farm Bureau Livestock and Public lands committee