

June 9, 2021

To: Oregon House Committee on Rules

Re: SB 16

I am writing to voice my opposition to SB 16.

For the record, my name is Patricia Dudley. My family has been farming wine grapes on exclusive farm use (EFU) land in Polk County for over 40 years. We have two generations currently active in our farm and winery, with a succession plan in place for our third generation. Our family has actively supported Oregon's land use planning program since we first started farming here and became aware of how vulnerable Oregon's valuable farmland is to constant pressure from commercial and residential development.

SB 16 would waive Oregon's land use laws to allow up to 100 houses – not related to farming – to be built on up to 200 acres of exclusive farm use (EFU) lands in the “eastern Oregon border region,” which includes the Malheur County cities of Ontario, Vale, and Nyssa, the areas of Willow Creek and Brogan, and the farm and ranch lands in between. It would allow rezoning and partitioning of the EFU land for the house. This bill would set a terrible precedent.

Rezoning farmland to allow more houses that are not related to farming is fundamentally contrary to Oregon's land use program and should be firmly resisted.

Please do not vote to approve SB 16.

Thank you,

Patricia Dudley  
President  
Bethel Heights Vineyard  
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