

Submitter: Denielle Edlund

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1522

Dear Chair Pham and Committee members,

I am writing today to oppose SB 1522-1. I live on a 40 acre ranch in Gaston and I urge you to protect our beautiful state's productive farm and forest lands. Our UGBs are unique and prioritize our agricultural heritage as well as the conservation of wildlife, clean air and water. The huge and wonderful benefits to our state with its current land use restrictions, comes in the form of some amazing intangibles; the "sweet air" that my out of state visitors often remark about, our delicious drinking water that makes the best beer and sake, the fertile valley producing some of the best produce and wine in the world and the abundant and diverse wildlife I am in awe of, daily, on my property to name a few. These intangibles should not be taken for granted. Let's not forget why Oregon is amazing - it is due to its unique commitment to conservation and farmland. When we bought our property, we knew full well it was EFU - C Exclusive Farm Use and Conservation land. This limits what we can do on the property, and we accept and lean into this restriction. And we are doing our best to restore native plant life to the land - for the sensitive ecosystem that needs humans who care about it. These restrictions are what is best for our valley, for the myriad species we share the planet with, and we honor the balance we have a responsibility to uphold. When we acquired our property we stopped the practice of spraying pesticide on our crops and within two years, we had salmon spawning in our seasonal stream. Little changes make a big impact to our system in the balance.

You, as our leaders, are asked today to be responsible for protecting this balance by way of voting against this measure. Not just for human benefit, and intangible Oregon awesomeness, but also for the benefit of plants and animals who cannot advocate for themselves. Thank you for your time.