

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Aileen Kaye, Oregon Citizen

Re: SB 16

Date: February 8, 2021

Subject: "No" on SB 16

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

I hope you will vote "no" on SB 16. It flies in the face of the most basic principles of Oregon's land use laws. This bill would allow a huge housing development on exclusive farm use land. This is simply not the way we do land use planning in Oregon.

Since 1973, our land use laws have maintained Oregon as a bountiful and beautiful state. We are agriculturally rich. Once farm land is used for housing, it can never be restored for agricultural use.

The exclusive farm use land that Oregon has left should be preserved for agricultural uses. Food production is even more crucial than in the past due to the pandemic. Also, EFU land is needed for livestock. I have horses and have to live in a rural area because horses are not allowed in residential zones. I need ag land for hay for our horses and places to ride. Housing developments should not be built on EFU land just because it is pretty or the county might want the tax dollars expensive homes yield.

There is land available for housing inside the urban growth boundaries in the counties in question. That land is appropriate; EFU land is not.

If passed, this bill would set a very dangerous precedent, opening the door for housing developers to make special requests to the legislature every session. That's not how we keep Oregon Oregon. We keep it by following our successful land use planning system.

Please vote "no" on SB 16. Thank you for your consideration.