

February 7, 2021

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
RE: SB 16

Dear Chair Beyers and Committee:

As a co-owner of a farm in Hubbard, Oregon, I am very much opposed to SB 16.

I know that the Willamette Valley has different issues than some Eastern Oregon cities, but farmland will always be valuable and necessary. Even more so in the future. Of Oregon's 36 counties, Malheur County is in the top five in agricultural production and employs 21% of the county's working men. That is a huge asset.

Moreover, large plots like the one's proposed are the worst kind of development covering up much valuable farmland. I fear it will only attract older people looking for a second home and not add much to the community. Ontario already has 1500(!) acres left in its urban reserve that has not been used. The community could build there, and help young farmers to acquire farms within this 200 acres of EFU land.

To me, also this seems like a big blow to Oregon's land use laws, even with the sideboards. Making it illegal to appeal these land use decisions, only strike more of a blow.

Please do not pass this bill. Thank you.

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