

Submitter: Robert Emmons
On Behalf Of: LandWatch Lane County
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB788

Chair Golden and Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Committee:

Please accept the following comments on behalf of LandWatch Lane County, the non-profit I head. LandWatch has worked with neighbors throughout Lane County for almost 30 years to protect farm and forest land, natural areas and open space.

The list is long and seemingly endless of events, activities and occupations allowed or sought on farm and forest land that are not accessory to farm and forest operations. The intent of farm and forest zonings is to preserve them for farm and forest uses, not to make them playgrounds for urban type businesses better contained within urban growth boundaries.

The weddings permitted in this bill would be an outright permitted use with no limitation on the number of people, number of vehicles or number of days or nights and no regard for their impacts on surrounding agricultural operations or the cumulative impacts such events would add substantially to. This is an invitation to urban commercial enterprises without a requirement that they be related to or supplement the income of the farms they're using.

Please keep the bells on farmer John's cow, instead of welcoming hordes of unrelated visitors to a nuptials in its pasture or barn. We urge you to vote no on SB 788.

Thank you.
Robert Emmons, President
LandWatch Lane County