

Dennis Rea  
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March 6, 2025

Sen. Jeff Golden  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support SBs 77 & 78 | Oppose SB 788

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of H.T. Rea Farming, a fourth-generation family owned and operated farm specializing in the production of grain crops, vegetables and certified seed. We're proud of being fourth generation, as only about 3% of family businesses are able to operate into the fourth generation and beyond.

Headquartered in Milton-Freewater, our farm cares for and manages farm land in both Washington and Oregon across a diverse rainfall zone. We've experienced the difference between farming in a state with land use planning and in one without. Oregon farmers are lucky to have the benefits of state land use planning and exclusive farm use zoning.

Oregon's land use program is necessary to protect the large blocks of agricultural land our industry needs to operate successfully. We are concerned with the intrusion of numerous nonfarm uses into the exclusive farm use zone that drive up agricultural land prices for farmers and convert good farm ground to uses better located in our small cities and towns.

We support SBs 77 and 78 as a step in the right direction of limiting nonfarm residential, recreational and commercial use in exclusive farm use zones. We oppose SB 788 as introducing yet another variation on the many events and other nonfarm uses already allowed on quality agricultural land where there's no connection to agriculture and the use creates expensive and time-consuming conflicts with commercial agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Best regards,

Dennis Rea

Dennis Rea  
Vice President