

February 08, 2021

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St., NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Oppose SB 16

Dear Chair Beyer and Committee Members,

I live in Senator Findley's District and I oppose Senate bill 16. I know what it means to have houses on one acre build next to a farm operation. This has happened to me. When it was one or two houses there was not any conflict. Now with over fifty homes built behind my farm there is always conflict. The ground that the houses are on now was cattle pasture before. The selling point was for high end homes with a view of our little valley. Everyone thinks that the "right to farm" is a great protector to farmers. It is only protection when you go to court which is expensive. I view each new home as contaminate to the EFU zone without buffers.

Let me share with you some of the conflicts that happen: (1) if their dog disappears, they call me to see if I shot it because it was "maybe" into my sheep and doing damage. (2) when coyotes are attacking and killing my lambs if we shoot to kill the predators the non-farm neighbors complain, so when I bought livestock guard dogs then the new complaint is the dogs are barking at the coyotes. (3) When the ewes with young lambs go out to graze and the lambs baa to find their mom, I have neighbors call and complain because the pairs are waking them up at daylight when they first head out to graze, and during lambing the lights on in the barn and corral area bother them. (4) as each home was built my property taxes on my home (not farm ground) went up. The list goes on and on. They want to always know what I am spraying and the noise from the irrigation system they didn't realize was so loud. My standard comment now is "my farm has been here for over 50 years, maybe you should've thought about what happens in a EFU zone before you purchased your lot and built".

Why should I care when I don't live in Malheur County? It is about the precedent being set and the damage to the integrity of the EFU zone. I can see other bills like this being brought each year to the Oregon legislative body by other counties, especially my own county. The EFU zone exists to **protect agriculture and recognize that farmers are an industry** in our own right. We have a process in the land use system for homes non related to farming to be sited in the towns, cities and within UGB. That is how you keep strong viable communities that have services to meet the needs of the residents. It becomes very expensive to provide services outside of the UGB.

Building homes is a one-shot injection into the economy that providing services soon evaporates the profits that a county would see to service each home now in the EFU zone. Agriculture is a continued revenue source.

I encourage you to vote no on SB 16, this bill only adds conflicts and sets a terrible precedent. Remember that once the EEU zone is contaminated by surrounding houses the price to farm goes up, as well as the price of farm ground when you try to buy it next development.

Sincerely,

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