

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

From: Jim Gilbert – Owner, Northwoods Nursery

Subject: Please oppose Senate Bills 438 and 878

Dear Chair Pham and members of the Committee,

I have made my living growing nursery stock here in south Clackamas County for over 40 years. I am very grateful for Oregon's unique land use planning program that has protected our valuable agricultural land for over 50 years. My nursery is located just 40 minutes south of Portland and, instead of being surrounded by strip malls and subdivisions, as is the case in most other states, my neighbors raise cattle and grow blueberries, hazelnuts and vegetables.

Senate Bills 438 and 878 are unnecessary and detrimental to Oregon's agricultural industry, the second largest economic sector in our state. Scattering houses across Oregon's farm and forest lands is inefficient, requires unnecessary commuting and fossil fuel use, creates conflicts with farming operations and is not the answer to our housing crisis. There is more than enough land inside our existing Urban Growth Boundaries for additional housing and our land use planning program allows for the expansion of UGB's when necessary. Building homes inside the UGB is also much more efficient, close to water supplies, sewer systems and other infrastructure.

Please help keep Oregon's agricultural industry healthy and thriving. Please oppose Senate Bills 438 and 878.

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PS: Please go to www.anoregonstory.com to watch a documentary film I helped make, which tells the amazing story of how Governor Tom McCall and many other farsighted and dedicated Oregonians created our unique land-use planning program.