

Submitter: Sheila Dooley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB788

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

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

My name is Sheila Dooley. I live in Mosier and am testifying in opposition to SB 788.

There appears to be no logic behind this bill. This bill is specifically for exclusive farm use land in Eastern Oregon and in counties with a less than 90,000 population. Eastern Oregon is a diverse region. In our area we have fruit orchards in the Hood River Valley, to grapes and cherry orchards in Mosier and The Dalles, to wheat, hay fields, cattle rangeland and crops as you go further east.

There are other existing pathways to having a wedding or event venue where it's appropriate rather than making it an outright permitted use. These include the agritourism statute and the commercial activities in conjunction with farm use rules.

SB 788 is unnecessary and harmful.

Wedding and event venues can conflict with accepted farming practices on neighboring properties and drive up the cost of property for farmers, taking it out of farm use. They also increase fire risk. They need to be evaluated and permitted on a case by case basis.

Please oppose SB 788.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dooley