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Via Email

To Chair Pham and Members of the Senate
Committee on Housing and Development

Re: Senate Bill 1578

Dear Chair Pham and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1578 I am tempted to say I don't know where this sort of stuff comes from. However, that would not be true.

Agriculture and food processing form one of Oregon's largest economic sectors. They can only succeed through the protection of large areas of contiguous farmland, protected from incompatible uses. Allowing blobs of urban development in Exclusive Farm Use zoning districts is an indulgence Oregon agriculture cannot afford. Such development would require urban services—sewers, water and other necessities—which are simply not available in EFU areas, and which few if any counties can afford to extend.

The proposed residential uses themselves would create immediate challenges to farmers, as residents will not tolerate the noise of farm equipment, or delays caused by slow-moving tractors and farm vehicles on the roads, or the spraying of fertilizer and pesticides near their homes (or ADUs), regardless of the laws intended to protect farmers from such grievances.

Oregon's land use laws are designed to provide for cohesive urbanized areas and cohesive resource lands for many sound, practical reasons. They were not and are not flights of fancy. Please recognize the foresight of your predecessors, and vote no on SB 1578.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey L. Kleinman

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