

Submitter: August Peterson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1578

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

I wish to highlight an issue that I did not hear in verbal testimony or in any of the written testimony thus far, and that is the reality that the state has already set precedent in excepting farm and forest zones protections for state priorities. Between facilities already approved and those currently in the EFSC process, over 70,000 acres in Oregon have been sited for solar. These projects occur almost exclusively on EFU or EFC zones. What this current bill proposes is a maximum of 950 acres that could be rezoned in the entire state of Oregon for housing. That is ~1% of what we are potentially building out for solar. I ask that the state be consistent, if we are willing to cover tens of thousands of acres in solar panels to advance state priorities in clean energy it seems entirely reasonable that we dedicate less than 1,000 acres across the entire state of Oregon for housing. Rural counties are bearing the cost of this enormous build out, this bill is an opportunity to give us a tool in addressing our own needs. I encourage you to support this bill in consistent treatment of rural Oregon.

Thank you,

Gus Peterson
Morrow County Commissioner
(Testifying as Self)