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To: [DeJong Annola](#)
Subject: SB 713 : in opposition to firearms training facilities in EFU zones
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In opposition to SB 713 permitting firearms training facilities in EFU zones.

Here you will find my passionate reasons for opposing SB 713 which considers permitting farmland in Oregon to be used for firearms training facilities. Please vote NO.

I live in and love Tillamook County which is primarily forest land but has some very precious farmland much of which is also associated with pristine natural areas.

Our home area and the city of Tillamook recently were threatened by Tillamook gun club's zoning application to put a firearms training facility on farmland. The land is adjacent to the estuary waters of the Tillamook River and a short distance from the city limits of Tillamook. It was a very tense and difficult campaign.

We fought it off, thanks to zoning of EFU which does not allow any shooting ranges. The only thing that stopped the firearms facility was the proud Oregon tradition and laws protecting farmland to be used as farmland.

There is no doubt in my mind that residents of the sidewalk areas of Tillamook would now be hearing gunshots during outdoor hours daily if that local farmland were not protected from shooting ranges by EFU zoning. The repetitive sound of gunshots would be echoing across my patch of woods and dozens of nearby homes. Recreational gunshot sounds would be blasting across less than a mile of open pasture housing hundreds of cows to 9th Street in Tillamook. The sound alone would contaminate the estuary waters of the Tillamook River which is a sanctuary of nature for fisherman, boaters, riverside runners and walkers.

Complicated questions of shooting range pollution and the effect on cows' milk production I'll leave for others. The difficulties of engineering a "quiet" shooting range cannot honestly be argued away. It's not possible for an outdoor firearms training facility to suit any community.

No matter what you call them, on the issue of livability alone I think outdoor firearms training facilities should be one of the most closely scrutinized land uses, subject to many levels of consideration before they are sited.

Current legal fights over the livability burden of existing shooting ranges are legion. The siting of new ones should take that into account and consider that a firearms training facility is not appropriate anywhere near homes, any homes, even the small town and rural homes in farming communities. We're people, too, and we don't like the sound of guns in our homes, hometowns, and family playgrounds of outdoor living. Please vote NO on SB 713.

Sincerely and with hope,

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