

This letter is in response to proposed legislation HB2173. Once again, private property rights have come under attack from an unlikely source.

As a landowner in the Willamette Valley I chose voluntarily to phase out agriculture on my properties, choosing a conservation easement instead. I understand the concerns about public money being involved in such projects however, many requirements were met in order to complete the easement process. State, federal and focal government agencies were involved; this included a public notification process not unlike any other development process. Any or all who opposed or were in favor of the project were given ample time for recourse at public hearing.

More regulations layered on top of the existing will make the process redundant and would be a waste of precious tax dollars. This bill threatens the very rights WE ALL hold dear as land owners, private property rights. My right to conserve my land and provide for wildlife habitat should not be any different than other land uses that are within law.

Sincerely,
Ed F. Rust, Jr.
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