

**To the Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development:**

**My name is Jerry Marguth, and I am a farmer in the Southern Willamette Valley. My wife and I produce crops on 2500 acres that are nearly equally divided between Lane and Benton Counties. We very strongly support the passage of Senate Bill 633. We believe that decisions concerning agricultural production are best left to State or in some cases Federal governing bodies to ensure consistency across larger geographic regions, rather than a patchwork of various conflicting rules generated at the county or municipal level.**

**Modern agriculture faces a great many challenges, which to a degree have inhibited the entrance into the career by younger farmers. The demographic statistics have for several decades now shown a trend for the average age of farmers to be steadily increasing. We may not be able to change the overwhelming capitalization challenge facing young entrants into agriculture, but we can and should try to de-escalate the complexity of the regulatory environment that they face. Frankly, today's farmer should have a full time compliance officer on staff to attempt to address the myriad rules and regulations imposed by a small army of state and federal agencies, but that duty must necessarily fall to the farmer to somehow fit into his 80 hour work week. Adding another layer of governing body to the mix will not improve that picture.**

**If the projections of world population exceeding nine billion by 2050 bear out, then I find it safe to say that agriculture globally will need every tool at its disposal to feed that world. We have the luxury in this country to enjoy the safest, most abundant and affordable food on the planet and we did not get here accidentally. Science and technology have led the American farmer to exceed anyone's grandest expectation of production, but even with those tools we would not be here, if not for a regulatory environment that allowed farmers to rise to their true potential. Senate Bill 633 will help to protect that environment.**

**I mentioned earlier that we farm across county lines. I can't even begin to imagine the operational environment that we will face if counties are able to impose separate and in many cases opposing rules to our cultural practice. I can imagine however, that it may cost us more than we can afford.**

**I respectfully ask that you support Senate Bill 633.**

**Jerry W. Marguth  
Nixon Farms, Inc.  
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