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April 13, 2015

Senator Edwards
Chairman
Senate Committee
900 Court St NE H-284
Salem, Oregon 97301

Senate Bill 748 Oppose

The Honorable Chairman Edwards and Committee Members,

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau is opposing **SB 748**. A lot of testimony will be heard by this committee from pro-development looking at their pocket books and not caring that the agriculture community is feeling under siege this session in having the basic ingredient of farm ground for farming in demand for a use other than farming.

This is another attack on the number two industry in Oregon that creates jobs **"AGRICULTURE" ...we are an industry**. We don't promise jobs if you give us a carrot or financial incentive to come to Oregon, and we don't pack up our jobs and go to another state or country that gives us a better deal. But as laws pass to weaken the protection of our farm ground you will see **agriculture** disappear. Agriculture was here before Oregon was a state and still is here providing jobs and feeding non-farmers, but farmland is not an infinite source. Our farmland is just as precious to us in Jefferson County as it is in the valley. There already are shovel ready industrial lands and the frontier counties exceptions to land use planning.

Our board wants to know "what is a high paying job?" Is it above the average mean in a county or is it \$100,000 a year, is it \$500,000, etc...? So ten people won't suffer, but how will that help those that didn't get the high paying job? Rural communities suffer because of infrastructure and location. Transportation and location are key. Making it easier for businesses/industries to site out on "cheap farm ground" and compete with the businesses and industrial sites in the towns won't fix the problem. You will continue to undermine your rural cities and towns and hasten their deaths. We consider this bill as doing away with the principle of land use planning to protect agricultural lands as well as allowing supersiting.

Farm Bureau has clear policy to oppose SB 748. Land Use Planning 3.010

We support the principle of land use planning for the purpose of protecting the resources and the agricultural environment and infrastructure needed for farmers and ranchers to produce food and fiber for current and future generations in a profitable manner. We are philosophically opposed to efforts to remove economically productive farm and forest land from farm or forest zones.

We are in favor of agricultural utilization of land by individual owners who live on or lease their property. **And policy on Supersiting 3.790**

We oppose the supersiting of any non-farm activity that would subtract from, or adversely affect, the surrounding agricultural industry and resource base.

This bill scares us because it is never enough...we saw how well the urban/rural reserves process worked for agriculture in the Metro area...SB 716 this session is to undo that deal.

The larger question is what will it take to make everyone realize that there isn't any place to get more productive farm ground at a reasonable price and this is just another consumptive use of land that can go somewhere else using the current land use system. The land use planning system already has in place rules that work for industrial lands. There is no need for this bill in our county. We have plenty of vacant industrial lands with infrastructure waiting to be put to use.

Sincerely,

Sue Vanek
President
Cell 541/480/6200

Home of the North Unit Irrigation District