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April 14, 2015

Representative Clem
Chairman
House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water
900 Court St NE H-284
Salem, Oregon 97301

House Bill 2508 Support

The Honorable Chairman Clem and Committee Members,

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau is supporting **HB 2508**. A lot of testimony will be heard by this committee from the utility companies looking at their pocket books and telling you how this bill just won't work and isn't needed. Our county farm bureau has worked with you, Chairman Clem, for several years on trying to get something done. We are very grateful that you are attempting to fix a problem that is not only about Eastern Oregon farmers and ranchers, it impacts agriculture throughout Oregon.

Our county farm bureau helped develop the farm bureau policy on utility siting (3.675 page 31 & 32 of Oregon Farm Bureau policy book). You have heard our story many times that it is the impacts from the utility companies' rules that hurt our farming and ranching operations.

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 to try to do the least disruption of a farming or ranching operation. The utility companies always want the cheapest route for the utility corridor and they always let agriculture know that they will use condemnation and that they don't have to work with the landowner.

We really appreciate you taking the lead on this to find a solution to help the farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,

Sue Vanek
President
Cell 541/480/6200

Home of the North Unit Irrigation District