

As a resident of Deschutes County, I strongly urge you to reject HB2893, which "Requires city to evaluate for inclusion in urban growth boundary agricultural land consisting predominantly of certain soil classifications with other first priority soils."

This provision fails to take into account irrigation, which can change the classification of Class VI soils to Class III soil. Current law is very clear: Class IV soils, whether irrigated now or in the past, are to be treated as Class III soils. Current law seeks to preserve Oregon's agricultural potential. The proposed bill would risk destroying prime farmland forever. The which are prime farmland in our area and important both to our future agricultural economy and to the quality of life of those living on this land.

This bill would overturn well-established land use principles by allowing cities to treat high value irrigated farm lands as the equivalent of non-resource lands for purposes of expanding the urban growth boundary. This bill is a wrong-headed effort that gives cities a green light to undermine nearby agriculture. Protecting agricultural land has been a key to Oregon's successful agricultural industry as well as Oregon's intelligent growth.

So I urge you, please vote no on HB2893. If cities truly need help, there are more intelligent ways of providing it for them, ways that do not mortgage our future for short-term gains.

Thank you.

Charles Humphreys

Sisters, OR

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Chuck Humphreys
[541 815 1543](tel:5418151543)