



P.O Box 1083
McMinnville, OR 97128

April 11, 2017

Helping to shape the use of our natural resources to protect the quality of life in Yamhill County.

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 1048

Dear Chair Dembrow and Committee members:

Friends of Yamhill County (FYC) works to protect natural resources through the implementation of land use planning goals, policies, and laws that maintain and improve the present and future quality of life in Yamhill County.

We are opposed to SB 1048. We are not clear what “problem” this bill is intended to solve, but it will allow the manipulation of parcel locations in farm and forest zones in ways prohibited under current law.

The clear effect will be significantly more non-farm and non-forest dwellings in our resources zones, especially forest template dwellings. Forest template dwellings are already subject to abuse through manipulation of parcel boundaries. This bill would go further by allowing the actual relocation of the parcel. It would also retroactively legitimize a series of particularly egregious and illegal property line adjustments in Lane County that would have qualified multiple forestland parcels for residential dwellings. It would likely also lead to manipulation of parcels in farm zones to change predominant soil type in order to qualify a parcel for the various uses that use soil type as a criterion.

Farm and forest zones are industrial zones intended to protect two of our economy’s leading industries. Non-farm and non-forest dwellings in these resource zones create multiple conflicts that make it much more difficult to actually farm or carry out forestry operations. In the case of forestland dwellings, they also significantly increase both the risk wildland fires and the cost of fighting them.

Existing law already allows legitimate property line adjustments in a straight forward and undemanding process. There is no legitimate reason to allow the kinds of shenanigans that SB 1048 would legalize. Please vote NO on SB 1048.

Sincerely,

Sid Friedman
Friends of Yamhill County