

To the Honorable Ginny Burdick and Ann Lininger, Co-Chairs Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation,

I would like the record to reflect the following information regarding SB 1057 – 11 Amendments.

In 1973 the Oregon Legislature adopted a statewide planning system that draws a bright line between urban and rural land uses, channeling growth into urban areas while protecting farm and forest lands. The State adopted 19 Statewide Planning Goals; farm lands are protected by Statewide Goal 3, Agricultural Lands, ORS 215 and OAR 660-033. Goal 3 requires all counties to inventory and protect farm lands. Using these Statewide Goals, the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan (DCCP) provides a blueprint for land use conservation and development in the unincorporated areas of Deschutes County. The current DCCP covers a 20-year period from 2010-2030. (DCCP Section 1.1)

Chapter 2 of the DCCP, Resource Management, details how Deschutes County should meet this Statewide goal by characterizing the landscape of rural farmland in Deschutes County and setting local goals to protect farmland. The DCCP specifically calls for Deschutes County to preserve farm land and protect both current and future agricultural opportunities via the Exclusive Farm Use Zone by supporting stakeholders in studying and promoting economically viable agricultural opportunities and practices (DCCP, Policy 2.2.10) and encouraging small farming enterprises, including, but not limited to, niche markets, organic farming, farm stands or value added products (DCCP, Policy 2.2.11).

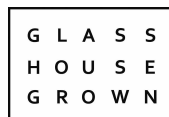
Goals and Policies from the DCCP for agriculture:

Goal 1: Preserve and maintain agricultural lands and the agricultural industry.

Goal 2: Promote a diverse, sustainable, revenue-generating agricultural sector.

Goal 3: Ensure Exclusive Farm Use policies, classifications and codes are consistent with local and emerging agricultural conditions and markets. (DCCP Section 2.2)

HB 2229 authorizes counties to reevaluate resource lands and amend their comprehensive plan designations for such lands consistent with definitions of “agricultural land” and “forest land. Anything that does not qualify as farmland or forestland may be rezoned for non-resource use, subject to conditions that development



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in the non-resource zones be rural in character, not significantly conflict with surrounding farm practices. (DCCP Section 2.2)

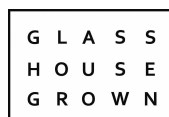
It should be noted that agricultural lands are preserved through State policy and land use law because it is difficult to predict what agricultural opportunities might arise, and once fragmented the opportunity to farm may be lost. The goals and policies in Section 2 are intended to provide the basis for evaluating the future of agriculture in the County over the next twenty years. They are intended to provide, within State guidelines, flexibility to the farming community. County farm lands will be preserved by ensuring a variety of alternative paths to profitability (DCCP Section 2.2).

Given that Deschutes County has chosen to maintain EFU lands rather than attempt to rezone as allowed in HB 2229, the goals in the DCCP should be met in regards to preserving EFU land and maintaining proper land use and zoning in the surrounding properties that are compatible to agricultural practices.

Often it is mentioned on public record that Deschutes County looks different than other Counties in that EFU parcels are surrounded by residential use. Arguably, it has and always will be the responsibility of the County to protect farmland from increasing pressures to convert farmland into land that is no longer rural in character; reference DC.18.16.030 and DC18.16.050 for mechanism by which the County is called to protect agriculture from non-farm use.

Thank you for your continued efforts to help us find a workable solution that allows farming to take place on farmland.

Lindsey Pate
CEO and Co-Founder, Glass House Grown



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