



June 26, 2017

Senate Committee on Rules
The Honorable Ginny Burdick, Chair

Re: SB 432 and amendments

**Testimony before the Senate Rules Committee
Relating to Senate Bill 432**

By Jeff Stone, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Nurseries
June 26, 2017

Senate Majority Leader Burdick, Senate Republican Leader Ferrioli, members of the committee, my name is Jeff Stone and I serve as the Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Nurseries. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the issue of land use and Senate Bill 432.

Senate Bill 432 would authorize counties and local governments to adopt a comprehensive plan and land use regulation that are not consistent with statewide land use planning goals. We are supportive of rural economic growth and the needs for opportunity to expand jobs in the Eastern Oregon region. However, we have concerns over unintended consequences if Senate Bill 432, and the amendments under consideration, were to become law.

The Economic Footprint of the Nursery and Greenhouse Industry

The nursery and greenhouse industry is the state's second largest agricultural sector, and the industry ranks third in the nation, with over \$894 million in sales annually to customers in Oregon, the rest of the United States, and abroad. In fact, nearly 75% of the nursery stock grown in our state leaves our borders – with over half reaching markets east of the Mississippi River. We send ecologically friendly green products out of the state, and bring traded sector dollars back to Oregon.

Nursery association members represent wholesale plant growers, Christmas tree growers, retailers, and greenhouse operators. Our members are located throughout the state, with our largest nursery growing operations found in Clackamas, Marion, Washington, Yamhill and Multnomah Counties.

SB 432 will have consequences to agriculture

While we appreciate that the proposed bill is limited to seven counties, it is our opinion that allowing counties another route to take exceptions to the land use goals will have a negative impact on

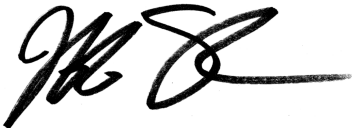
agriculture throughout the state. There are already a process for exceptions and allowing other uses – such as housing and non-farm business – on lands protected by Goal 3 through Exclusive Farm Use zoning would increase prices of farm land. We are concerned that the appeals process would devolve into case by case litigation. Currently, counties and cities must utilize an exception process to demonstrate need and most, if not all, have enough lands for commercial and residential purposes at their disposal to develop. Merely adding productive farm land to development does not resolve serious cost issues such as water, sewer and roads.

Let's find another way to resolve urban/rural economic growth

Land use bills often have a greater long-term implication and consequence to the statewide planning apparatus. Protection of farm land, for food and ornamental production, is necessary for the viability of bringing traded sector dollars back to the state. We would urge the Senate Rules Committee to vote no on Senate Bill 432.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Stone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Stone, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Nurseries
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