



PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

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Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair

Senator Cliff Bentz

Senator Floyd Prozanski

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TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY

SB 2

February 5, 2019

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen, members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Peter Courtney. I am a State Senator. I live in NE Salem. I am here to testify in support of SB 2.

SB 2 is the Eastern Oregon Land Use bill. It is an attempt to solve a problem we at the legislature have heard repeatedly over the years from our Eastern Oregon friends.

The stated problem is that our land use planning system doesn't work for very rural parts of Oregon.

The task before us was to figure out how to allow some flexibility to those areas without hurting the overall land use planning program.

SB 2 is the result of a careful compromise. It was crafted through a work group process led by my staff with the following partners:

- **1,000 Friends of Oregon** – Mary Kyle McCurdy and Meriel Darzan
- **Oregon Farm Bureau**- Mary Ann Cooper and Samantha Bayer
- **Oregonians in Action** – Dave Hunnicut
- **Association of Oregon Counties**- Mike Eliason
- **League of Oregon Cities**- Erin Doyle
- **Planners from around Oregon**- Brandon McMullen (Harney County), Nick Lelack (Deschutes County), Austin McGuigan (Polk County) and the
- **Dept of Land Conservation and Development** (Ellen Miller, Jon Jinings and Rob Hallyburton)

The group met multiple times throughout the Spring and Summer and developed what is now SB 2.

SB 2 allows a select group of low growth counties in Eastern Oregon the opportunity to develop up to 50 acres outside their UGB for business or industry if they have identified the need in an Economic Opportunities Analysis.

There are limits to the development such as:

- 1) no developing on high value farm land or
- 2) no development in sage grouse areas
- 3) and there is an amendment to restrict the overall 50 acres to 10 parcels.

Thank you for considering this bill.