

March 12, 2019

I am here to testify in support of the House Bill 2790.

I think all counties should require a conditional use application with an outdoor mass gathering permit of more than 3,000 individuals on EFU ground.

Many people don't realize is the additional costs that farmers face when these outdoor mass gathering events occur in EFU zones. Most of these outdoor events occur during our harvest because here in Oregon that is your best chance of good weather.

One of the main costs that my farming operation was facing when a well known music festival proposed 30,000-60,000 people next to our farm was the increased in liability insurance. When I called my insurance agent to ask if I could increase to my limited liability insurance to ten million his first response was to laugh and ask "Why do you need a policy so high when your current assets do not equal that much." He explained that he could get me a five million dollar policy but anything higher would have to go through another company for approval. I would also need to prove why I needed such a high policy. If I were to get the approval it would cost our farm an additional \$8,400. This is on top of our current policy. The reason I was asking for such a high liability insurance was because their proposed camp site was conjoining our farm.

Worst-case scenario:

My flail, or for that matter any piece of equipment, starts a fire on my property. It travels over onto the adjacent festival grounds and it catches a few RV's or tents on fire. What happens if there is someone who gets trapped and doesn't make it out alive? There is not enough insurance to cover an accident like that.

My husband and I have worked very hard to get where we are today. I didn't want a catastrophic event to take away everything we have worked for.

Adding this conditional use application with an outdoor mass gathering of more than 3,000 individuals on EFU ground provides a voice to farmers and other business that will be affected.

Please support HB 2790

Thank you,
Blue Lace Farms
Audrey Raschein
3084 Yellowstone PL NE
Albany OR 97321

