

To: Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Ronald Bjork, Jackson County Farm Bureau

Date: March 20, 2019

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 111

The Jackson County Farm Bureau is in opposition of Senate Bill 111.

Grape growers are a vital component of Jackson County Agriculture and Oregon Agriculture as a whole. Oregon winegrowers now produce more fruit than can be processed solely by Oregon wineries. According to the Oregon Wine Board, about 20% of all grapes grown in the state of Oregon are shipped outside of the state. Passage of this bill would do considerable, and in some cases, irreparable harm to Oregon and Jackson County grape growers. SB 111 would depress the price of these grapes by denying these growers the full benefit of the "Oregon" brand and discouraging out of state wineries from purchasing Oregon grapes.

Please consider the negative impact this bill will have on our community:

- The bill is dividing a vital Oregon farm industry by putting grape growers at odds with one another.
- SB 111 devalues Oregon wine grape prices.
- SB 111 would benefit only a small subset of Oregon winemakers at the expense of Oregon growers and farmers.
- The goal should not be one of limiting the supply of fruit grown in the state, but rather one of opening new markets for Oregon grapes while protecting Oregon's reputation for quality.

We urge you to vote against SB 111.

Thank you,



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