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EDUCATING THRIVING CITIZENS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Education Center  
520 N.W. Wall Street Bend,  
Oregon 97703

March 26, 2019

House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use

RE: HB 3384 – Ensuring educational access in rural Oregon

Dear Committee Members,

The Bend-La Pine School District would like to offer its support for HB 3384 – Ensuring educational access in rural Oregon.

We urge you to fix the conflict between ORS 215.135 and LCDC rules that prevent ten schools across Oregon from expanding on exclusive farm use property owned prior to 2009. One of our schools, Buckingham Elementary, is adversely impacted by this conflict. Buckingham opened in 1980 and serves a large number of rural students. There is room on the parcel for a future expansion. Given the rapid growth in our district, it is likely we will need to expand Buckingham Elementary in the future.

Passage of this House Bill will enable the district to expand to provide our students with contemporary educational opportunities at a school we have used for almost 40 years. This legislation maintains the balance between protecting farmland and educational necessity.

Sincerely,



Shay Mikalson,  
Superintendent