

## Testimony against HB 2456

April 8, 2019

House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use  
Chair Representative Clem  
Vice-Chair Representative McLain  
Vice-Chair Bill Post  
Representative Shelly Boshart Davis  
Representative Ken Helm  
Representative David Brock Smith  
Representative Anna Williams

As a farming family in Central Oregon with 3 son's who are actively participating in farming we are opposed to HB 2456. We know that this bill is aimed at the boarder between Idaho and Oregon but the ramifications of such a bill will spill over into other areas of our state as the precedent here is set. Central Oregon is already under fire as farms are continuing to be shrunk and houses being built in EFU Zones through out the region. This bill would potentially fuel the fire to get a similar bill passed here and that is not good for our area or our farming out look. We need to protect the limited amount of farm ground in Oregon.

Allowing homes on EFU zoned land that is not related to farming makes it harder for farmers to perform accepted farming practices. Ontario has already placed land in an Urban Reserve and the misconception that HB 2456 will provide an economic boost to the county is pie in the sky thinking. It is known that rural residential development does not pay the costs incurred by the local government. Greater economic return would come from protecting agriculture. Long term economic return for the state of Oregon would be to protect our EFU zones and keep farming a priority because when Idaho keeps putting housing on their farm ground the only place to grow food will be Oregon. Don't let our Oregon look like Idaho as it has squandered much beautifully productive farm ground.

Keep Oregon green and protect our ability to farm by opposing HB 2456.

Janice Flegel

