
FRIENDS *of* DOUGLAS COUNTY

577 Mode Road Umpqua, OR 97486 541-459-4222

Mary 17, 2019

House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use

RE: Opposition to SB943

Chairman Representative Clem, Representative McLain, Representative Post, Representative Boshart Davis, Representative Helm, Representative Brock Smith, and Representative Williams,

Friends of Douglas County urges you not to move this bill forward.

Friends of Douglas County does not oppose language to allow a parsonage on lands that are not designated as resource lands.

There is currently a pending LUBA case on a proposed parsonage on Exclusive Farm Use land (EFU) in Douglas County. It would be prudent to let this case move through the legal process before changing state statutes.

SB943 is in direct conflict with ORS 215.283 and ORS 215.213 which only allows churches and cemeteries in conjunction with churches on EFU lands.

Parsonages are not activities like weddings or funerals. A parsonage on EFU is a nonfarm dwelling with nonfarm activities 24 hours a day every day.

The proposed bill does not offer any protection to resource lands and does not consider the impacts that nonfarm dwellings permitted outright would have on adjacent resource lands.

The proposed bill could have unintended consequences of the creation on many new nonfarm dwellings allowed outright by converting existing or building new buildings on EFU for use as a church with minimal members.

Thank you.

Brenda Epp for Friends of Douglas County