

Dear Chair Burdick and Committee Members:

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 1050.

Measure 37 was a ballot initiative that was passed nearly 15 years ago that would have allowed the partitioning of many thousands of acres of farm and forest land for development into homesites or other uses that had nothing to do with farming or forestry. Once voters saw the impact that law would have on our farms, they overwhelmingly passed Measure 47, which dialed back the impacts. That law still allowed property owners that owned land before land use regulations were put in place to petition for a limited number of homesites under certain conditions. The bill was sold as a way to provide fairness to longtime property owners who had the rules changed on them while at the same time providing certainty to neighboring farm and forest operators about the limits of what could sprout up next to them.

A key part of that bill was a 10-year limitation on subsequent purchasers subdividing or partitioning property or establishing dwellings under that law. Once that 10-year limit was passed, neighbors would know the extent of potential conflicts. Ten years have now passed.

Senate Bill 1050, quietly introduced at the end of May, would eliminate that 10-year limitation. Thus far the legislature has been consistent about not changing the terms of the voter approved Measure 47. This bill would be counter to the past resolve of the legislature to not make such changes. This bill would violate the trust of the voters, who passed Measure 47--including this provision--by large margins across the state. Making a major change such as this with little notice and next to no opportunity for public input is inappropriate. This bill is bad for Oregon's farmers and foresters, because it opens up the possibility of more non-farm and non-forest related dwellings being developed next to them and adds uncertainty about the conflicts that those uses will bring.

The future of our food depends on farmland. I strongly encourage you to do the right thing to protect the future of Oregon's farmland by opposing Senate Bill 1050.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Halle Riddlebarger**

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