

From: [Jacqueline Jones](#)
To: [Exhibits SHDEV](#)
Subject: I am opposed to SB 1555
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 7:13:37 AM

February 11, 2020
Senate Housing and Development Committee
900 Court St., NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Fagan and Committee Members,

I am opposed to SB 1555.

I was an elementary teacher for ten years before coming back to run our family farm. My dad plans on retiring in five years. One thing that he has made me become aware of is the encroaching non-farm uses in the EFU zone and how conflicts arise when non-farmers move out to the EFU zone.

Senate bill 1555 if passed would be one of those non-farm uses in the EFU zone. This bill has no criteria that defines whom a clergy is that will live in the parsonage, or even if it has to be a clergyman from the church to live in the parsonage. Then I saw the size of the house of 2,500 square feet which made me pause ...that is a big house, larger than my 100 year old farmhouse.

As a young farmer returning to farm, I feel that this bill will give churches in EFU rights to build a home that will not be able to be challenged in the land use system because of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA). I taught at a religious school. RLUIPA usually makes people think that they can't challenge a land use action. As broad as this bill is, most counties would never challenge an application for a dwelling.

I will lose my rights as a landowner in the EFU zone that I have now to address a dwelling being sited if this bill becomes law.

The law protecting the EFU zone now does not conflict with RLUIPA. Currently trying to build a parsonage in an EFU zone has been, once again upheld in a LUBA appeal just recently against the Cole Valley Church in Douglas County, as well as the Court of Appeals upheld LUBA's decision to not allow that use in the EFU zone.

Please vote no on SB 1555, as a young farmer I don't need to have another non-farm use in the EFU zone to deal with, it is overwhelming as is.

Sincerely,

Jacque Jones
Farmer in Washington County
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