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**To:** [Exhibits SHDEV](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 8:25:30 AM

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February 12 2020

> Senate Housing and Development Committee

> 900 Court St., NE

> Salem, Oregon 97301

> Oppose SB 1555

> Dear Chair Fagan and Committee Members,

> I farm in Southern Oregon. As a farmer who believes in the protections that the EFU zone provides, I am concerned that Senate Bill 1555 is in direct conflict with those protections. EFU zoning was designed for a purpose and has worked.

This bill makes it a special class for housing development in the EFU zone that cannot be challenged. The EFU zone recognizes that farmers are an industry and the zone exists to protect agriculture in our state.

The county that I live in would never deny an application for a church and associated housing because of a fear of being sued under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA). They don't have the resources, nor to I as an individual, to fight a court battle. This bill will take away other citizens rights and make a new class.

My other concerns as I read through the bill are: (1) there is nothing in the bill

that says whom must live in the house (2) there is nothing in the bill

that says

how the house must stay with the church and (3) there is no definition of who qualifies to apply for the parsonage.

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> As RLUIPA currently is viewed to build a parsonage in an EFU zone has been, once again upheld in a LUBA appeal recently (Cole Valley Church in Douglas County), as well as the Court of Appeals.

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> A no vote on SB 1555 allows for the system that works now to continue to work and

be upheld by the courts.

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> Sincerely,

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> Linda Nelsen

> Specialty Row Crop Farmer

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