

Greetings,

I am sending this note to voice my support for SB 16. As you may know Malheur County is a low income area and designated as distressed by federal agencies. While just across the border into Idaho, this is not the case in fact it's pretty much the opposite. I am a retired internal bank regulatory auditor. During the last few real estate booms I heard firsthand comments of disparate land use law between Oregon and Idaho. These comments were from lenders, landowners, contractors and families wanting to build in Malheur Country as was happening in boarder towns in Idaho. It was disheartening at the least to see the opportunities for economic growth pass by.

The Idaho boarder counties continue to enjoy increased residential and commercial and economic growth while our residential and commercial growth is stagnant, except for marijuana related businesses. Malheur County would benefit, and be better positioned to compete with Idaho, by allowing parcels of land zoned exclusive farm use to be rezoned for residential housing. There are many families that would like to build on an acre or two either inside or outside of city limits, but currently there are very few available, if any. This has been a long and ongoing challenge for landowners as well as folks wanting small acreage for which to build a home. We, with many others, looked into these possibilities in the past with out any success.

Now is the time to take action, otherwise we will once again loose the opportunity for positive impact to our taxing districts. Passing Senate Bill 16 is a step forward for Malheur County.

Regards,
Cindy Ingram