

Please Oppose SB 16

Friends of Yamhill County strongly opposes this bill and the further carving up of the state's land use system. We relate to a sister county with an economy and employment based in agriculture. The state has recently invested in a major rail re-load shipping facility in Nyssa, which will greatly increase the transportation options available for Malheur County's ranchers and farmers to get their products to market quickly. Taking farmland out of production seems at odds with that investment.

Ontario has quite a bit of land available for residential development. In 2008, Ontario established an urban reserve of about 2200 acres. Urban reserves are for the land need beyond the 20-year UGB, IF future growth is required. Between 2009-2014, Ontario expanded its UGB 3 times, bringing in about 600 acres from the urban reserve, consisting mostly of EFU lands and mostly for industrial use, but not entirely. That leaves about 1500 acres still available in the Ontario Urban Reserve, in addition to vacant residential lands already in the Ontario UGB. This illustrates that if there is a demand for homes, including higher end homes, outside of the immediate built-up area of Ontario, there are plenty of options.

Although not as impacted as many other counties, Yamhill County had its own wildfire experience in 2020. More work needs to be done on assessing and mapping wildfire risk before additional residences are permitted in EFU zones.

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