

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network to oppose SB 16.

Allowing homes on farmland that are not related to farming is fundamentally contrary to Oregon's land use program and sets a terrible precedent.

- Adding potentially hundreds of homes for those not in farming or ranching in the midst of working lands causes many conflicts with farming.

- Agriculture is the economic engine of this region. Malheur County is among the top beef and dairy producing regions in the country. Farming and ranching is Malheur County's largest jobs provider, generating over \$350 million annually in agriculture sales.

- Scattered housing development can interfere with wildlife and water resources, increasing the risk of wildfire in an area already rated as high for wildfire risk.

Oregonians also need food and fiber, and Oregon has some of the best land in the world for growing crops and trees, and raising cattle.

Please oppose SB 16.

Megan Kemple, Co-Director
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network