



# UNION COUNTY

## Planning Department

Scott Hartell, Planning Director

1001 4th Street, Suite C

La Grande, OR 97850

PHONE (541) 963-1014

FAX (541)963-1039

RE: Testimony Supporting HB 2487

Committee Chair Helm and committee members thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2487. My name is Scott Hartell and I am the Union County Planning Director located at 1001 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C, La Grande, Oregon, 97850.

I have a job and career that I love, which is supporting the Oregon Land Use Planning Program and I own and live on a working farm in Baker County. I believe these two things give me a unique perspective to testify in support of HB 2487.

Personally, I know of four wedding and/or event venue locations being conducted in an EFU Zone. These venues are conducted in existing buildings that do not support current farming practices or equipment shelter needs. Yet these buildings are big, unique structures that continue to be maintained by the landowner for a return of aesthetics and family history values. Riparian areas along creeks, rivers and ponds, hills with great views all may be identified in an EFU zone but are not or may not be being used for cultivated crop productions or livestock grazing practices. Allowing a few or few hundred people the opportunity to park their car for a few hours to enjoy the festivity of a wedding, retirement party or family reunion on portions of land not under production would provide a financial boost to the family farm to help keep it in the family, which was a big part of the legislative intent of establishing EFU zones in the first place. Also, allowing counties that HB2487 would apply to the latitude to establish local limitations would also help protect EFU zones and uses because of our local relationships with landowners and knowledge of the lands.

Again, thank you for this opportunity and if you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott Hartell  
Planning Director