

April 6, 2023

RE: Opposition to SB 1087

Dear Senate Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to SB 1087 allowing farm cafes on land zoned EFU in Lane County. Allowing this type of use in one county opens the door to further erosion of land use laws in other Oregon counties and exclusive farm use zones statewide.

Cafes, restaurants, and other commercial non-farm uses should be in nearby cities and towns, not on EFU land. Allowing these proposed uses undermines businesses in town, increases traffic on local country roads, increases the carbon footprint of all the extra driving to remote locations, and disturbs other landowners who will not reap the financial rewards but will instead face the burdens of additional traffic, noise, and resource impacts (such as water depletion on local wells).

As a landowner of acreage in the county of Yamhill I experience first-hand the impacts from “agro-tourism” on my property values and livability, with increased traffic, dust, noise, and impacts to local wildlife. Our groundwater limited area is constantly being tapped for more uses.

I urge you to oppose SB 1087 which negatively impacts our EFU zone and undermines local businesses that operate within the urban areas where infrastructure can support them.

Sincerely,
Patricia Farrell