

Submitter: Kathryn Rosson
On Behalf Of: Spirit in the Sky LLC
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Honorable Legislatures

Lusted Road Sandy, OR.

For over thirty years, this farm was a working farm, due to a death in the family, the farm was passed to Millennium children, ownership is split between a woman who was willed 52% and two brothers who share the remaining 48%. The siblings consider themselves stewards of this EFU land; they also consider themselves stewards of, approximately, a half a mile of Sandy River frontage. Restoring and preserving this property is critical to our family and the community at large.

The farm was homesteaded in 1844, that family was granted the land in 1876 by the new State of Oregon. Since then, the land has been owned by six (6) other families. The farm includes a late 1800's barn, a poultry yard, a 1915 farmhouse and 70 acres of tillable, organic certified farmland. All structures require some level of restoration; we are looking to add the historic barn to the National Registry. As with many properties on the West Coast - we are also battling a major Scotch Broom infestation that has extended to the Sandy Riverbanks.

Since purchasing the farm in 1993, EFU land has become prohibitively expensive for small and emerging farmers (<https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Documents/OAHP-Oregonian-Land-Crisis-2016.pdf>).

While this land is a prime candidate for HB 2210, the 'heirs' wish is to preserve its heritage; to that end they have created a Growers Group (Spirit in the Sky Growers Group) to avail prime farmland to BIPOC and emerging farmers graduating from Oregon Tilth and Headwater types of Incubator Programs. Eventually, we will explore placing the land in a Land Trust.

In effect, we have a gift for others who are not in a financial position to purchase farmland, but we need financial help and political will to create a long-standing, sustainable farm community.

Our plan is to reforest part of the Sandy River Bluff to prevent further erosion, add two Solar Arrays to power the two wells, the house, barns and greenhouse; mitigate the Scotch Broom and ensure our Sandy River Frontage stays a clean habitat for animals, fish and native vegetation.

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Foundation is a potential resource to help us accomplish our goals. These funds would help us improve the infrastructure for a growing farming community and aide in ensuring our stretch of the Sandy River Scenic Waterway stays invasive weed free. While we have not applied for a grant to date, when this program is funded, the OAHF will be a valuable resource to aid us in preserving this special land.

Please reinsert POPs 215 and 115 into OWEB's budget.
Please support HB 3366

Thank you

Kathryn Rosson, MBA
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