

Submitter: Jan Wilson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1087

Please do not approve or support this expansion of urban uses on EFU land. Restaurants are restricted to commercial lands, either inside or outside of the UGB, so that they don't interfere with legitimate use of EFU land to grow the food our state and global population needs. There are plenty of opportunities in the existing laws for rural farms to sell their produce to restaurants in urban areas, and to also sell their farm products on site at farm stores and stands. We do not need farm cafes on every farm, vineyard, and hops field across the state! Make no mistake: the effort to restrict this to Lane County will quickly be eroded and we will indeed have restaurants on EFU land everywhere.

Moreover, I have heard that this particular bill is to allow a farm cafe at the Hentze Family Farm in Eugene, Oregon, off River Rd., near Junction City. I was very good friends with Dick Hentze before he passed away a few years ago, and I know that he and his brother Gordon often were at odds about how to run the family farm. But for decades (generations!) the Hentze Family Farm has produced delicious berries and made and sold jams and other berry products on their amazingly productive soils, on the bank of the Willamette River. Although Dick always advocated for riparian restoration projects on the farm, I know for sure he would not have supported taking even one acre of the top-class farm soil out of food production in exchange for a parking lot and restaurant, no matter how much money it generated for the family. I hope you will have the courage to require this special family farm to remain in the food production business, for which the site is so uniquely suited and which the community so desperately needs, now and for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.