

Submitter: Patrick Fay
On Behalf Of: Hentze Family Farm
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB77

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

I vehemently oppose this bill.

There are much better ways to limit abuse of land use in EFU than what this bill proposes.

This is shoddily crafted bill that just makes things harder for small farm businesses and small farms.

It's far easier to provide the correct sideboards on how we would like "farm stays" or "event venues" to operate on Oregon farmland.

Here's a thought!

How about a statute that requires all Oregon farm occupancy businesses only source Oregon products?

The same for venues.

Only Oregon harvests and products at these businesses.

That's what I do naturally at our event venue.

Which, y'all have made it amazingly frustrating to monetize.

No farmer in Oregon can monetize (you know generate revenue!) through the service of alcohol but four times per year and 90 days apart per
https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_433.735

An obscure outdoor gathering statute that has bearing on obtaining a temporary alcohol sales permit.

So that means I can hold only two functions per season where I can charge for alcohol (outdoor venue)

Would you like to go over the receipts with me? My traffic, and sales, increases dramatically when I can offer an additional layer of service.

A layer of service that will only ever include Oregon produced products.

We are an Oregon farm. An Oregon beer or wine is a celebration of Oregon harvests. We have the best grapes and hops in the nation.

Are you somehow unaware of that fact? Ask our friends at OSU.

While your at it? Ask them about the impact of agritourism in our state:
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/em-9421-initial-economic-impact-estimate-agritourism-oregons-willamette-valley>

The Oregon legislature is not doing our local food chain and food security any favors by kowtowing to 1000 Friends of Oregon and other "Land Use Advocates".

Where are there proposals on how to save our farms? Not our farmland. They're kinda clear on that.

How do they help the small farmers, like us, make their way in this maddeningly frustrating economic environment that Salem has allowed to manifest?

Nowhere.

They are not on the side of small farms. They represent big farms. Do your diligence.

Hell, just look at their promotional materials and the size of their lobbying firms.

What does the small farm have to compete with that?

I get it. It sounds nice. "Protect and conserve our farms."

It's hogwash.

Big farms do not participate in agritourism. They don't have to.

Big farms don't have farmstands. They don't need them.

We should be looking for ways to kick the door open for small farm prosperity in Oregon. Not close it off.

We need more harvests. Not more grass seed farms. How much grass seed did you eat this week?

Farmstands provide local harvests to Oregonians. When those local harvests are available? All of the grocers, the national chains and the local ones must compete with us.

We keep prices low for all of y'all! Whether you get your butt out to the farm or not.

And you should.

Shame on any legislator that supports this bill.

Do your diligence.

Oppose this bill. Create bills that responsibly advance, and therefore truly protect, our Agricultural economy and legacy.

Especially in this political climate where we will not be getting much from farms outside the U.S.

We need to ensure ALL Oregon farms have the best support available to ensure our region's food chain and food security.

Demand better solutions from 1000 Friends and other land use advocates. Make them demonstrate their claims with real small farm corroboration.

And get out of Salem, get to your local farm that has a farmstand (IN EFU!) that has a CSA program, and talk to that farmer! Buy that CSA share!

These farm stays? It's a few extra bucks. Look it up. There are receipts! Farms are seasonal, y'all! Are bills seasonal?

We are better than this trash bill.