



**Statement of OLAWA, the Oregon Land and Water Alliance,
In opposition to Oregon Senate Bill 1129**

My name is Paul Lipscomb, and I live in the Cloverdale area outside of Sisters, Oregon. I am the Vice President of OLAWA, the Oregon Land and Water Alliance. The Oregon Land and Water Alliance is a 501c3 organization, and its purpose is to educate the public to promote and protect the Rule of Law on all local issues relating to land and water use as well as fish and wildlife. I have been authorized to present this testimony in opposition to this bill on behalf of OLAWA, and its Board of Directors.

SB 1129 is a dangerous bill that would be easily exploited by unscrupulous developers who could buy up existing working farms to convert those agricultural properties into urban reserves. And, truly, there is no public need for this bill.

Currently, local governments already have adequate discretion to decide which available lands are best suited for urban reserves which could later be incorporated into their urban growth boundaries. Cities and counties are already authorized to identify exclusive farm use zoned properties for expansion into their urban growth boundaries if their existing urban properties are truly no longer able to accommodate future growth. But that power exists only when it is actually necessary, not just when it might be convenient or popular.

Nothing at all is to be gained from adopting this dangerous proposal into law at the present time, and there are considerable risks to neighboring farmlands that should continue to be used for farming purposes for the foreseeable future.

Please vote NO on SB 1129.

Thank you for your time and attention to our significant concerns.

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