

Submitter: Elaine Jenkins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1578

I have lived in Oregon for a long time. I grew up in Marion County where I lived close to berry and bean farms and picked them as a child and teen. The money I made helped me attend college. We had family friends that raised cattle, sheep and chickens. As an adult, I worked in rural areas in Marion and Linn County. I know that it is important to have farmland that grows crops separated and raises animals to be out of the way to homes and housing communities. Farming and ranching are messy and smelly and despite the intent to have no affect on farming practices I can foresee difficulties. Oregon's agricultural base is important to protect. It is the basis of land use planning.

I find it odd that the amendment to the ORS for Accessory Buildings in Urban Areas. Not only does this bill not address water table levels, basic utilities and the access to services such as schools, emergency services, grocery stores and medical care. Land use planning is important. Just last summer, the counties targeted by this law experienced flash floods that resulted from damage to the ecosystem caused by the fires the year before. Housing is important. Creating safe communities is more important. Rather than rushing this bill through a short session, it is better to take a breath, study the issues and do it right the first time.