From: vic affolter
To: DeJong Annola
Cc: C. Wayne Cook
Subject: SB 713 Testimony
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 9:47:36 AM

Annola,

Following is my testimony on SB 713 re firearms training facilities on EFU land. I'm also putting a hard copy in today's mail.

Vic Affolter
503-842-8585

April 15, 2013

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Room 331 State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 713

Dear Senator Prozanski and Committee Members:

This is written in support of SB 713 that would permit a firearms training facility as a conditional use on exclusive farm use (EFU) zones. I served as Tillamook County's Planning Director from 1983 until my retirement in 2001. I have a reputation for being a strong advocate of EFU for protecting farmland, but I also understand the need for a well-managed firearms training facility in a place like Tillamook County where the only suitable land may be zoned EFU.

The logical place to locate an outdoor firearms facility is in a rural are as far as possible from residential development, yet still close enough to populated areas to be reasonably accessible. That would be resource land that is not too far removed from urbanized areas—not land with in an urban growth boundary, or land within populated rural residential or commercial zones.

Currently Oregon Administrative Rules permit a firearms training facility on farm-zoned land only if such a facility was a preexisting use as of September 9, 1995 as per the OAR's reference to ORS 197.770. This precludes locating a firearms training facility on any of the extensive EFU-zoned land in Tillamook County since there are no preexisting facilities. The applicable Goal 4 OAR does permit such a facility as a conditional use on forest-zoned land without reference to the preexisting limitation. The steep terrain on forest-zoned land in Tillamook County

makes it unsuitable for meeting the requirements of a firearms facility. My conversations with DLCD's farm-forest specialists Ron Eber (retired) and Katherine Daniels elicited no logical reason for permitting such a facility in one resource zone (forest) but not the other (farm).

A recent effort to locate a firearms training facility in Tillamook County failed because the only suitable site was on farm-zoned land despite the application's strong support from state, county and city law enforcement officers, the Oregon Departments of Forestry and Fish & Wildlife, the U.S. Forest Service, the Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors and the adjacent corporate forest ownership (Stimson Lumber). An attempt to rezone the subject property failed because the Board of Commissioners found that it did not meet the criterion of being more suited for forest use than farm use despite it being Class IV farmland and adjacent to forest-zoned land. Consideration of the property's relative suitability for a firearms training facility was deemed irrelevant for meeting that criterion.

In light of my experience, I respectfully urge support for SB 713.

Sincerely,

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