



Oregon

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TO: The Honorable Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use

FROM: Palmer Mason, Senior Policy Advisor

RE: House Bill 2355

This bill eliminates the need for a connection between a cider business and agricultural land or local farm products. The department is not taking a position on this bill, but would like the committee to consider the following information.

Cider businesses are currently allowed in exclusive farm use zones by ORS 215.213(1) and 215.283(1). Uses listed in these statutes are generally considered to be compatible with agriculture and do not require an evaluation of the impacts to neighboring farm practices. The proposed amendments could result in significantly more commercial operations on farmland that are not connected with any local farm, thereby increasing the potential for conflicts with surrounding farming operations.

Counties may currently choose to approve a cider business that is unconnected to an orchard as a “commercial activity in conjunction with farm use.” Approval of such an activity requires demonstration that the use will not force a significant change in accepted farm practices or significantly increase the cost of accepted farm practices on surrounding farmlands. These “compatibility” criteria help ensure that the use will not introduce new conflicts into the area. Some counties may have local standards that would preclude approval of a cider business using this provision, so this option may not be available everywhere.