



## Providing Natural Resource Leadership

April 2, 2019

Representative Brian Clem  
House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use  
Oregon State Legislature

Re: HB 2355

Dear Chair Clem and House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use Members,

The Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (district) is providing this written testimony to communicate its concern of language and potential impacts of HB 2355. Our district assists and work with landowners, land managers and other constituents in Yamhill County to protect important farmland and high value soils, wildlife habitat and other natural resources.

Our district believes the current law is adequate to accommodate cider business. The current law provides assurance that operations have a connection to production agriculture by establishing reasonable production requirements. The current law authorizes many uses when an operation meets the production requirements, such as Agri-tourism and other commercial activities. Granting approval for commercial activities associated with a cider business should be closely tied to significant agricultural production.

This bill would eliminate any requirement to grow, manage or produce apples or pears on site or within close proximity to applicant's propose facility. It could allow a commercial operation to exist with as little as one gallon of cider production. It seems that any landowner could easily qualify under the proposed bill and qualify for a commercial operation on any parcel of agricultural land. Granting approval for an operation opens the door for a variety of non-farm activities that have no connection to agriculture such as weddings, parties, and special events. This bill would authorize commercial use not directly supported by farming and agricultural production. It also bypasses the need for conditional use permits, and the associated local review of county planning departments and county governance.

This bill weakens Oregon's use law relating to farmland protection. We encourage the committee to vote against and defeat HB 2355. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,  
Barbara Boyer

District Chair