



Jefferson County Farm Bureau

**798 SE Dover Lane
Madras, Oregon 97741
Phone 503/250/2460**

April 08, 2019

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Or 97301

Opposed HB 2456

Dear Chairman Clem and Committee Members,

Jefferson County Farm Bureau is opposed to this bill for many reasons: (1) this area is in the Treasure Valley and has good farm ground and you are encouraging retiring farmers or farmers that are struggling to take farm ground out of production for three years to chase this development yet keep their farm deferral (2) there is no defined area except for the houses can be built in the economic zone 20 miles to Weiser, Idaho or ten miles towards Vale, we assume that 200 homes can be built (3) building houses in an EFU zone is not economic development it is a one time stimulus if the housing lot sells and you can get a house in the EFU zone 14 ways now (4) to ask tax payers throughout Oregon to cover this tax credit is just wrong, our Ag zone is suffering as well or if not more than Malheur County's is, but we are to support this tax credit (5) there appears to be no limit on ownership limitations for the developed parcels, one individual could own 20 separate parcels/lots and file and sell them for housing development (6) to have a sunset date of 2032 is not economic development.

This is a bad precedent to set under the disguise of economic development. This special economic zone has had lots of special attention and funding starting with the 2008 legislative session when they were allowed to have an urban reserve of 2,200 acres. They have developed approximately 600 acres. When you create jobs, you need affordable housing and services for workers in close proximity to the work.

We encourage you to vote no on this bill.

Sincerely,

Mickey Killingsworth

Mickey Killingsworth
Secretary-Treasurer
Jefferson County Farm Bureau
Phone/cell: 503.250.2460

Home of North Unit Irrigation District