

April 8, 2019

To: Chair Clem, rep.brianclem@oregonlegislature.gov

CC: haglu.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use

900 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to HB 2456

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to give comment. This bill HB 2456 and similar ones from last legislative sessions trouble and confuse me deeply. We can protect farm ground and provide housing for the lower income residents.

As a farmer of over 40 years, I have increasingly spent my time defending our chosen occupation against the onslaught of non-farm conflicts. Even though we continually adapt to our environment, a season does not go by without addressing our practices with non-farm practices.

It seems to me that it would be easier on us and the people who would live in the proposed lower income housing if this committee **votes no on HB 2456**. These people, some being our employees, need to be closer to the services they need. It does not make sense to isolate those living in low income housing from the markets, libraries, recreation, schools, and programs that can assist them in making their lives easier. Are you trying to hide them?

Further, the bill provides incentives for them to bi-pass the farm forest deferral program. If you want to give them a tax break, do so, but not at the expense of an unrelated tax program. They will not farm. There are other incentives that would better serve them.

It is critical for our industry to maintain large enough parcels to farm. Our land use laws have supported our industry which is the 2nd largest economic driver to our state's economy. As farmers, as low-income residents and as the people of Oregon we can all have a brighter future if this committee votes NO on HB 2456. Please show respect to all parties involved and our beautiful Oregon OREGON.

Thank you,
Cory Koos
Koos Seed Co., Albany