

## Watts Remy

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**From:** Laurel Hines <laulehines@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 4, 2019 9:25 PM  
**To:** SENR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Yes on HB 2790A

Dear Honorable Senators,

Please vote to support passage of this bill which sets better requirements fo outdoor mass gatherings. Mass gatherings in rural areas need regulations to protect existing farms and rural homes and properties, and Oregon's wildlife. Rural, narrow roads, which are often forested or brushy on the sides, can be risky for drivers unfamiliar with them, going to and from large mass gatherings.

I live in a rural residential area that had to fight the recent application of the BiMart Country Music Festival from locating near us and posing a dangerous threat to wildlife in our forested small acreage area of about 95 homes (about 200 in the broader area nearby). Many of us wrote letters to the Marion County Commissioners, and quite a few of us attended the hearings. Luckily Marion County commissioners voted against it, but the whole event was a neighborhood stress, took a lot of our time, and we feared that the festival owners would appeal.

They had proposed having up to 60.000 people coming and going on narrow, brushy-edged rural roads in the middle of dry August, with camping, land large amounts of alcohol use.

We are already in fear of brush/field or other fires along the roads. We are 5 miles from the nearest fire station. We fear an event like the huge wildfire that wiped out a whole town in California.

Additionally, we worried about property intrusions, petty theft, noise, and litter from such a large event on farmland nearby.

We worried about the effect on the wildlife; the noise and sudden great excess of people, campers, and loud noise that can cause significant disruptions for them. The deer and other wildlife that cross roads at night pose a risk of car accidents, especially to those not used to watching for them.

Additionally, these big mass events on farmland may provide extra income from one farmer, but at the expense of disruption to the operations of many surrounding farms.

I would like to see even more restrictions put on mass gatherings than this bill puts on them, but this is better than the vague and too-lax requirements now existing. Clear and objective standards are needed. Commissioners who must decide on the applications need this clarification to be able to better protect the land, citizens, and wildlife from those seeking to make money by holding large outdoor mass gatherings that put those of us living near them at risk.

Sincerely,

Laurel Hines  
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