



**Nicole Albisu, Superintendent**

195 SW Third Avenue  
Ontario, Oregon 97914

[nalbisu@ontario.k12.or.us](mailto:nalbisu@ontario.k12.or.us)

541.889.5374

---

May 9, 2019

Representative Lynn Findley

[Rep.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov)

Representative Pam Marsh

[rep.pammarsh@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:rep.pammarsh@oregonlegislature.gov)

Representative Nancy Nathanson

[Rep.NancyNathanson@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.NancyNathanson@oregonlegislature.gov)

**SUBJECT: Please Support House Bill 2456**

Dear Representative Nathanson, Representative Findley, Representative Marsh, and Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

I am writing to show my support for HB 2456, which seeks to allow counties to rezone limited non-viable farmlands within the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region from exclusive farm use to residential use.

As the Superintendent for Ontario School District, I am entrusted with overseeing the education of more than 2400 students. Oversight of our District is no easy task given that our county's poverty rate ranks the highest in the state and amongst the highest in the nation. As educators, to be responsive to the needs of our students, we must consider the constraints that poverty places on our kids, and how such conditions influence their learning and academic achievement. Providing a rigorous, well-rounded, and meaningful education to all of our students demands more from our educators and staff than typical in areas with higher socioeconomic statuses. Research shows that effective teachers and administrators are the most crucial factor contributing to student achievement. Honestly stated, low-income populations need our most expert educators.

When looking for teaching jobs, quality educators often strive to be a vital part of a community where they can raise their family and also work. Unfortunately, Oregon's existing land use laws

discourage growth in our area by restricting access to land development and available housing. Eastern Oregon's very limited access to small acreages and/or rural living areas, that of which are most attractive to middle to high income wage earners, is a vital determinant in whether or not educators choose to live and work in Oregon versus Idaho. As a result, Ontario School District has struggled to attract/compete for educational talent from across the river in Idaho because of the lack of housing options available to them.

Please carefully consider showing your support for HB 2456. Your support of this bill will help Eastern Oregon prosper. Supported and robust education institutions improve the communities they serve. HB 2456 would allow Malheur County's education institutions to compete with Idaho and attract and obtain quality educators and administrators.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Albisu". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Nicole Albisu

cc: Senator Cliff Bentz  
LRO Exhibits [lro.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:lro.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

