

Chair Senator Shemia Fagan
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Feb 6, 2020

From: Mike McCarthy, Farmer Parkdale, Oregon and Board President 1000 Friends of Oregon.

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 1555 (Non-Farm Dwellings for Religious Officials)

Dear Senator Fagan and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB1555.

I am a farmer from Parkdale where I raise apples, pears and cherries. I also am President of the Board of 1000 Friends of Oregon. I have been involved in the Oregon Land Use system for 40 years in Oregon where I have worked to protect farmland for farm use and to reduce conflicts to farmers from other uses in the Exclusive Farm Use zone.

Please do not allow more non-farm uses in the farm zone.

This use is a new "Outright Allowed Use" in the farm zone. This means there will be no evaluation by anyone as to whether surrounding farms will be allowed to continue farm use unimpeded.

New non-farm uses will:

- Take good farmland out of production including High Value Farmland and Prime Farmland (the world's most valuable).
- Result in conflicts with nearby farming operations, reduce their ability to use their land and interfere with their Right to Farm.
- Reduce the profitability of nearby farm operations.
- Increased complaints and trespass on to farms will cause farmers to spend hours resolving conflicts.

On farms in Hood River County and around the state many farmers are finding that conflicts to their farm operations from nonfarm uses are very problematic. Farming activities in the farm zone go on at times 24 hours per day at all times of the year with noise, dust and odors. These are all part of farming but these normal farm practices result in complaints from nonfarm neighbors.

Please oppose SB 1555 and Non-Farm uses in the farm zone.

Thank you.



Mike McCarthy

8405 Clear Creek Rd
Parkdale, OR 97041
541 806-6476