

Here are my sentiments:

Senate Bill 16 is bad for Oregon agriculture and does not meet Oregonians' housing needs:

These speculative houses would be located on the very productive farming and ranching area extending at least 20 miles in from the Idaho border, and including the Malheur County cities of Ontario, Vale, and Nyssa, the areas of Willow Creek and Brogan, and the farm and ranch lands and habitat in between. Allowing homes on farmland that are not related to farming is fundamentally contrary to Oregon's land use program and sets a terrible precedent. Even car fleet managers think they are farmers these days and so it is up to you to prevent them from taking over lands that are not suitable for the housing of big hat no cattle clerks and functionaries.

Adding potentially hundreds of homes for those not in farming or ranching in the midst of working lands causes many conflicts with farming.

Agriculture is the economic engine of this region. Malheur County is among the top beef and dairy producing regions in the country. Farming and ranching is Malheur County's largest jobs provider, generating over \$350 million annually in agriculture sales.

The results of SB 16 would take investment away from Ontario, which has land available for residential development. Rural communities need investment now more than ever.

The state has recently invested in a major rail reload shipping facility in Nyssa, designed to increase the options available for Malheur County's ranchers and farmers to get their products to market quickly. This is not a time to be taking farmland out of production.

Scattered housing development can interfere with wildlife and water resources, increasing the risk of wildfire in an area already rated as high for wildfire risk.

SB 16 is based on the flawed notion that if higher-end homes are allowed scattered on farmland, it will spur economic growth in the region. It is more likely these will end up as luxury second homes, causing home prices overall to increase for those of middle- and low-income.

SB 16 has been declared a "Major Threat" by the Oregon Conservation Network

Oregonians do need more diverse and affordable housing types — but they need homes near where they live, work and play — inside our towns and cities. Oregonians also need food and fiber, and Oregon has some of the best land in the world for growing crops and trees, and raising cattle.

We should not, and need not, play housing and food production against one another by treating working lands as vacant lands.