

Submitter: David Wall

On Behalf Of: Mr Oregon Opposes SB 1562

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1532

Wednesday; [02.09.22]

I OPPOSE [SB 1562]. The Extension Service has been on the 'gravy-train' for way too long.

In Yamhill County, which is considered an 'urban county' the Extension Service has morphed into a purveyor of food to those who do not want to pay for it and uses taxpayer funds to support 'Agritourism'. In short, the Extension Service in Yamhill County should be shuttered with extreme prejudice.

I support farming (with the exceptions of Hemp and Marijuana). In Yamhill County, the farms are large and growing grapes for wineries is the order of the day. What is left in rural Yamhill County is rural residential development (which I do not support). The information and assistance to small organic farmers is readily 'on-line' and just a phone call away.

For Oregon Counties that have not met with the destruction economic and residential development brings with it, permitting the Extension Service to add services is still unwarranted. Again, the information to assist small organic farmers is readily on-line and or a phone call away.

***What is really needed is a reformulation of 'Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) Zoning' land requirements to give small organic farmers the same benefits afforded to larger farms-tax breaks for agricultural uses of their properties. (This means creating EFU Zoning for smaller farms (1/3 acre-19 acres for example).

The Audits Division of the Secretary of State should conduct financial and performance audits of the Extension Service. As well as the agricultural lands that are not being used for anything but to support dodging property taxes.

I support removing the Extension Service Funding from property taxes.

David S. Wall

Mr. Oregon Concurr.