



April 5, 2023

Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 1087 – Oppose

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1087. Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) is a conservation organization that, for more than 35 years, has protected Central Oregon’s forests and high desert, rivers and springs, fish and wildlife, and its vibrant communities. We work to conserve the region’s ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and working rural lands balanced with a responsible, sustainable approach to planning and fostering thriving communities.

LandWatch opposes SB 1087. The bill would create an exception to longstanding rules preventing commercial foodservice on agricultural lands in the state by allowing “farm cafes” in one county. Oregon’s statewide land use system and its protections for agricultural lands apply equally across the state, and exceptions made to satisfy the desires of one, or a few, stakeholders, will weaken these protections and could eventually lead to the erosion of protections throughout the state.

Already, too many nonfarm uses are allowed on our state’s limited supply of agricultural lands. Commercial uses like cafes create conflict with working farmers and drive up real estate values of farmlands, making it more difficult for new farmers to acquire land.

LandWatch respectfully requests that SB 1087 does not pass out of this Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Regards,

Rory Isbell
Rural Lands Program Manager & Staff Attorney
Central Oregon LandWatch

