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GORGEFRIENDS.ORG

February 10, 2025

Senate Committee on Housing & Development

Re: SB 503 - OPPOSE

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Committee Members:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge (“Friends”) is a non-profit organization with approximately 5,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Friends opposes SB 503. This bill would hurt the integrity of this state’s farmland by allowing an additional non-agricultural use on land zoned exclusively for farmland. SB 503 allows for a recreational vehicle to be used temporarily (5 months each year) to provide security for farm equipment or crops on land zoned for exclusive farm use.

This bill would circumvent existing rules regarding permitted dwellings on farmland to allow additional temporary dwellings to be placed on land zoned for exclusive farm use. Each additional non-farm use that becomes allowable under law serves to harm the integrity of Oregon’s farmland.

Please oppose SB 503 as it presents a clear threat to the protection of farmland in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Madison Kenney
Conservation Organizer