

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development
From: Aileen Kaye
Date: 2-26-25

Re: "No" on SB 878

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the Committee,

I hope you will vote "no" on SB 878 which allows an occupying homeowner outside of an urban growth boundary to site one additional family dwelling unit on the tract of the home.

I am a longtime member of the Oregon Farm Bureau, 1000 Friends of Oregon, Friends of Marion County, and more recently Friends of Family Farmers and Ag for Oregon. I have been a horse owner for 45 years, so I care deeply about keeping rural lands rural.

This legislation is not needed because there are already ways for an additional dwelling to be built for **legitimate** reasons via Oregon's current land use planning program. The relevant laws are located in several provisions of ORS 215.238.

Last night I reviewed the letters of testimony submitted regarding this bill. The few proponents of this bill seemed to be those in the real estate business or those who prefer houses to farmland

Allowing more housing outside the UGB urbanizes our rural areas. The last two legislative sessions have been very discouraging to me. We cannot continue to destroy farmland by allowing more water guzzling data centers and semi-conductor facilities, solar generating facilities, Amazon distribution centers, housing developments, etc. Once the farmland and water is gone, it is gone for good.

There is plenty of data on farmland loss in Oregon: "Farmland in Oregon; A look at the Numbers", "Death By 1000 Cuts", stats from the Capital Press, OSU, etc. You might also want to watch the prophetic film, "Soylent Green" in which only the very wealthy could afford to buy fruits and vegetables. Continuing down this path of using agricultural lands for non-

agricultural uses is dangerous and short - sighted. A recent editorial in the Capital Press stated, "Domestic food production should be viewed as a vital strategic priority. A country that can't feed itself can't sustain itself against hostile threats. Farmland is a finite resource that must be held dear."

I urge a "no" vote on SB 878.