

Submitter: Nancy Klatt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3194

I am now a retired cattle rancher but have been involved in Agriculture in Oregon since 1968. I am an Oregon Farm Bureau member and Oregon Cattlemans Association member and have been on various committees to support all types of Agriculture. It is a sad fact that Farms and Ranches across the state of Oregon and nationwide are decreasing, as Landowners age out, retire or sell out and there are not enough younger people able to step in to fill the gap and maintain the level of Agriculture our beautiful state is noted for and the high dollar level the Farms and Ranches contribute to the state's economy. Why, through HB 3194, is the Legislature trying to put more unnecessary burden on those trying to produce the Food and Fiber we ALL depend on? Leasing Farmland is a way for older or retired Agriculturists to maintain ownership and gives younger Agriculturists an economical way to begin their farming livelihood without the high costs of buying land. To me this is simple, it is a WIN-WIN for both parties. A simple land lease does not involve labor camps or additional housing for workers when the LESSEE is only farming the land to produce a crop and is not living on the property. I have been leasing out my fields since 2018, primarily for raising forage crops. I have had several Lessees in this time period, operating on a year to year lease. With this system my land is being put to its best use, my water rights are maintained and with the income I receive I am able to continue to live in my home of many years. I am proud that I have been able to contribute to several young Farmers being able to pursue their vocation and play a vital role in Oregon's Agriculture. To quote "IF IT AINT BROKE, DON'T FIX IT". Don't hamper those who aren't promoting or providing Labor Camps or do not have Farm Worker Housing on their properties.