

Dave Vanasche  
Vanasche Family Farm  
36130 NW Wren Rd  
Cornelius, OR 97113

Sen. Jeff Golden  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Oppose SB 788

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

I am a family farmer from Washington County. We farm 2,300 acres of grass seed, wheat, clover seed and hazelnuts near Cornelius. Of that, we own 1,028 acres and lease the other 1,272 acres of farm ground from about 30 different landlords. The parcels we farm are spread out over a 7-mile radius. All of it is high-value farmland.

I oppose SB 788. Farmers and ranchers are already allowed to host weddings through the agritourism statute passed in 2011. That statute is written to ensure that weddings and other commercial events are actually related to and supportive of commercial agriculture. It also requires that impacts on surrounding farm operations be considered.

We've learned that folks attending weddings and other farm events in the middle of the farm zone don't like our noise, dust, smoke or the legal use of agricultural chemicals and fertilizers required to grow our crops. They create a lot of headaches, and expense, for farmers who are just farming. Wedding venues operated by nonfarmers should not be allowed on high-value farmland that has been designated and preserved for commercial agriculture.

Please protect our designated exclusive farm use zone for farming, and reduce the overwhelming number of nonfarm uses that drive up land prices and create conflicts for family farmers trying to make a living. **Vote against SB 788.**

Thank you,

*Dave Vanasche*

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