



Statement of the Oregon Land and Water Alliance In Opposition to SB 788

My name is Paul Lipscomb, and I live in the Cloverdale area outside of Sisters, Oregon. I am the Vice President of OLAWA, the Oregon Land and Water Alliance. The Oregon Land and Water Alliance is a 503c3 organization, and its purpose is to educate the public to promote and protect the Rule of Law on all local issues relating to land and water use as well as fish and wildlife. I have been authorized to present this testimony in opposition to this bill on behalf of OLAWA and its Board of Directors of the new owners.

OLAWA opposes SB 788 because it is yet another attack on preserving farmlands in Oregon. This bill would add “wedding or event venue” to the long list of non-farm uses permitted on all EFU land in counties with fewer than 90,000, as well as on all farmlands east of the Cascade mountains. Oregon needs to stop expanding the seemingly never ending list of non-farm uses permitted on the increasingly shrinking farmlands in Oregon. ORS 215.243 prioritizes the “preservation of the maximum amount of the limited supply of agricultural land” in Oregon in order to “conserve the state’s economic resources.”

Current Oregon law already permits agritourism events and activities pursuant to ORS 215.283. Farm stands, wineries, and breweries are already not only outright permitted to host weddings, and other events, and those activities “must be allowed by the county” without restriction” under this existing law.

This is a bad bill, and it deserves to die in committee. Thank you for your consideration of our views on this issue.

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