



Jefferson County Farm Bureau

**798 SE Dover Lane
Madras, Oregon 97741
Phone 503/250/2460**

March 05, 2025

Chair Golden and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
900 Court St. NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Oppose SB 788

Dear Chair Golden and Vice Chair Nash and Committee members,

Jefferson County Farm Bureau is a member of the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF). We are located in Central Oregon, east of the Cascades.

As a county farm bureau, we oppose SB 788. Being in Central Oregon means that we are identified as part of EAST of the Cascades. There is no need for this bill. You can be approved for wedding events/venues already in our county.

This bill takes away the control of counties to allow this type of event/venue and the counties will now be mandated to allow this type of event/venue without built in protections for neighboring agriculture operations. Now there is an impact test that allows for neighbors to give input. Another key point that we would like to make is that even in farming/ranching operations that are expansive (thousands of acres in size) most events/venues will need to be where utilities and facilities are. These events are not passive and do impact neighboring operations. There appears to be no requirements in the bill for health, safety and welfare issues which exist now.

If this bill passes it is left up to the counties to figure out how to apply SB 788 and if they want to have any standards for such events/venues. It is always easier and less costly to not do anything as a county than to follow the rules in place that are there to protect everyone in the big picture.

This is not about a single wedding event. It is about up to 50 events a year. Then is the wedding events/venue now the main operation and not agriculture? Once again, another outright use is being proposed to add to the already list of 60.

Please, do not adopt SB 788.

Sincerely,

Mickey Killingsworth

Mickey Killingsworth
Secretary-Treasurer
Jefferson County Farm Bureau
503.250.2460
Cc Vanek and G. Harris

Home of North Unit Irrigation District