

Submitter: D Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3194
Chair & Committee

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill. HB 3194 places 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 cost of buying land.

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. With someone leasing their property and operating on a year to year lease, it puts the land to its best use, retains water rights and provides income to the lessor.

We should be proud to help young farmers with the ability to pursue their vocation as they play a vital role in Oregon's agriculture.

Farms and ranches across the state of Oregon and nationwide are decreasing as landowners age out, retire, or sell out and there just aren't enough younger people able to step in to fill the gap and maintain the level of agriculture in our beautiful state. Leasing farmland is a common practice, not negligence and looks different for every farm.

Although I understand the need for cracking down on illegal labor camps connected to illegal growing of marijuana, this bill will not do that and will severely hinder law abiding farmers and ranchers in this state. There is too much damage that could be done to the landowner with this bill. An honest landowner could face significant liability with a bill like this. Landowners cannot be expected to have eyes on their property 24/7. Residential tenancy does not require this and neither should farmland. Leasing farmland and renting housing to workers would be very risky under this bill. This bill would risk reducing the availability of leased farmland and workforce housing which is vital to the state's agricultural economy.

VOTE NO ON THIS HORRIBLE BILL!