

Submitter: Donald Doerfler  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3194

Dear House Committee On Judiciary,

I oppose HB 3194 because it makes landowners liable for situations outside of their control. Leasing land is very common in Oregon for both livestock grazing and growing crops.

Many farmers and soon-to-be farmers depend on leased land as part or all of their business. Landowners may also be dependent on the rental for income. They should not be dis-incentivized from earning a living on their land. Many operations offer rental homes to their employees—to a foreman, supervisor, milker, etc. Available workforce housing is likely to be reduced due to the liability created under HB 3194. HB 3194 does nothing to stop illegal cartels, but it will deter landowners from leasing property in Oregon, which is common practice for farmland owners across the country. Some property owners live outside of the state and cannot manage the day-to-day operations of farming. That's why they lease their land! This bill would require that every landowner hire a manager to have eyes on the property 24-7 to avoid claims! HB 3194 assumes landowners are guilty, and they have to somehow prove their innocence. It's a litigation driver against family farms and ranches. This bill is completely backwards.

Please vote "no" on HB 3194. It's the wrong approach.

Don Doerfler