



## **Jefferson County Farm Bureau**

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Phone 503/250/2460**

March 26, 2025

Chair Pham and Committee Members  
Senate Committee on Housing and Development  
900 Court St. NE Salem, Oregon 97301

### **Oppose SB 1129 (Urban Reserves) Moving to a Work Session**

Dear Chair Pham, 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 and we were established in 1947. We have watched the growth to our south explode over the last few years and now are experiencing it moving north to our county as well. This bill is about how to plan for the future growth of cities. Cities in our county did the urban reserve process years ago to protect agriculture, yet provide for future growth.

As a county farm bureau, we oppose SB 1129. After viewing the hearing by archives streaming using OLIS several things come to mind:

- (1) If this was a state wide approach why wasn't 1000 Friends of Oregon and other land use groups and/or the Association of Counties and League of Cities brought into the discussion before and with the **supposedly amendments that as of this morning are still not posted?** It appears that only Central Oregon Land Watch has been in discussions on this bill and the proposed amendments. Was the Department of Land Use and Conservation brought in to these discussions?
  - a. It is hard to testify to pending amendments when you don't know what they are. For everyday citizens it is frustrating and we can't even imagine the level of frustration on your end.
- (2) Mr. Kancler kept using examples of the Bend and Redmond areas, being directly north of there and having highly productive agricultural lands we feel that this is a one-off bill to go around DLCD's work directed by House Bill 2001 that passed in 2003.
- (3) As a county farm bureau, that works to save agricultural lands for food and fiber for the citizens that rely upon us it was insulting to hear Mr. Kancler remarks about the "mc-mansions" and how they don't want to subdivide and it is easier and less expensive to develop non-resource and farm lands. This is getting to be a common sound bite this session.
  - a. What about equity? Does money make the land use system not work anymore?
  - b. We live on those lands and they are our home as your home is your home. We are caretakers of a natural resource that is meant to be cared for generations, that is why we can adapt and use current science and technology. Yet, we must maintain a critical landmass to stay in production to keep the farm equipment dealerships, etc. in an area and reduce conflicts that can occur when non-farm development surrounds the agricultural lands that have been designated under Goal 3.

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***