

Submitter: Gregory McGill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB429

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,  
My name is Gregory McGill, and I am a resident and business owner from Carlton, Oregon. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 429, a measure that I believe imposes unnecessary burdens on law-abiding Oregonians and oversteps the bounds of reasonable governance.

While I understand the intent behind SB 429 may be to address specific concerns—whether related to agricultural cooperatives or firearm regulations—the practical implications of this bill are deeply troubling. For instance, if this bill includes provisions such as a 72-hour waiting period after a firearm purchase approval, as has been suggested in public discourse, it unfairly penalizes individuals who have already complied with existing background check requirements. This additional delay does not enhance public safety in a meaningful way; rather, it punishes those who have followed the law, undermining their rights without clear evidence of benefit. Oregon's current system already ensures thorough vetting, and further restrictions only serve to frustrate responsible citizens.

Similarly, if SB 429 seeks to impose new requirements on members of agricultural cooperative boards, as it did in the 2023 session, it risks stifling the ability of our rural communities to govern themselves effectively. Agricultural cooperatives are vital to Oregon's economy, supporting farmers and ensuring local control over resources. Adding bureaucratic hurdles—such as stringent qualifications or oversight—could deter capable individuals from serving, weakening these organizations and, by extension, the agricultural sector that so many Oregonians depend on. Our state thrives when we trust our citizens to lead with integrity, not when we layer on excessive regulation.

I urge you to consider the broader impact of this legislation. SB 429, in its current form, appears to prioritize control over practicality, placing undue strain on those it claims to protect or regulate. The lack of compelling evidence that these measures will achieve their stated goals only reinforces my concern that this bill is a solution in search of a problem.

I respectfully request that the Committee reject Senate Bill 429 and instead focus on policies that support Oregonians' rights, freedoms, and economic vitality without unnecessary interference. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to provide further input or answer any questions you may have.

