

Oregon State Board of Agriculture: Resolution Detail

Title

Viability of Oregon Agriculture

Background

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture is committed to supporting viable operations of agriculture throughout Oregon;

WHEREAS, the establishment of Exclusive Farm Use Zones (EFU) have supported the viable operation of farming in Oregon;

WHEREAS, waivers and exemptions of the land use laws developed to protect agricultural lands will most likely lead to location of large scale developments, new subdivisions and other nonfarm uses in and amongst ongoing farm and ranch operations; and

WHEREAS, deliberations regarding designation and treatment of agricultural lands under the statewide land use planning program have included the consideration of actions that could designate or treat differently many lands currently zoned exclusive farm use based on soil quality without accounting for land important to the state's livestock, dairy and winegrape industries;

WHEREAS, the USDA NRCS agricultural capability classification system (Class I-VII) does not always adequately address the special and unique needs of certain high-value crops such as vineyards and orchards and is not designed to provide analysis on the value of range and pasturelands; and

WHEREAS many provisions currently found in state law provide opportunities to re-evaluate land use designations, and "rezone" lands when determined to be appropriate, and

WHEREAS irrigation is key element in maintaining the viability of the state's agricultural industry.

WHEREAS decisions involving urban growth, the development of transportation and other infrastructure can impact the long-term viability of agriculture, and

WHEREAS the state land use system can be complex and difficult to understand in many areas.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to protect viable farming operations in Oregon as a valuable natural and economic resource for our state.
2. Urges that waivers and exemptions to land use regulations not be granted without giving due consideration to need and reasonable alternatives to impacting agricultural lands and operations.
3. Urges that programs dealing with compensation for land use limitations, such as the use of conservation easements, purchase of development rights and transfer of development rights, be developed to compliment the state land use program.
4. Supports protection of the state's viable grazing and vineyard lands and urges their continued protection as exclusive farm use lands and consideration as high-value farmland;
5. Urges consideration of other factors in addition to soils capability classification, when determining the value of land for high-value and specialty crops and range and pasture forage production.

Resolution Number

295

Subject

Land Use

Resolution Date

2/13/09

Date of Last Review

2/17/17

Committee

Land use

Moved by

Laura Masterson

Seconded by

Tracey Liskey

Action

Motion carried

Status

- Active
- Inactive
- Revise

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6. Urges consideration of the impacts of nonresource related development on adjacent agricultural lands, including the sustainability of existing water rights in, any deliberations related to the definition, inventory and designation of agricultural lands.
7. Supports the evaluation, through the periodic review process, of the adequacy of county agricultural lands inventories and agricultural land zoning.
8. Supports the development of a state strategic plan that integrates land use, transportation and economic development priorities.

Summary

Reaffirms commitment to protect viable farming operations in Oregon as a valuable natural and economic resource for the state.

Notes

This action repeals and replaces Board Resolution No. 277.
Resolution was reviewed and readopted on 2/17/2017.