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Albany Democrat Herald
Corvallis Gazette Times

Letter to the Editor:

One of the Albany Area Chamber's goals is to support our communities as we work together to make the Mid-Willamette Valley a better place to live, work and raise our families. That is why we are strongly urging voters in Benton County to oppose Measure 2-89.

Measure 2-89 is unfair to farmers, creates economic strain on the county, will force businesses to move elsewhere and will impact hundreds of local jobs. Farmers would have to destroy their crops banned by this measure within 90 days and will receive no financial compensation for the loss of income or livelihood, hurting their businesses and threatening their ability to keep employees.

In addition, it could cost Benton County hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars in litigation, enforcement and implementation – a financial impact that will undoubtedly have a ripple effect into surrounding communities.

The impact on Oregon State University alone should be enough to motivate voters to oppose this measure. According to OSU, it could impact hundreds of faculty and staff jobs, and the education of almost 400 students, not to mention the loss of over $18 million in funding for research this year alone. Those are real, local jobs for our citizens and real funding for important work being done at a university we are proud to have in our area.

We should be supporting our local businesses, agriculture, and economies—this measure does the opposite. We urge our neighbors in Benton County to Vote No on Measure 2-89.

Janet Steele,
President
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce