

September 15, 2025



Linda Jo Alexander
5270 SW Reif Rd
Powell Butte, OR 97753



Dear Crook County Commissioners,

I am Linda Jo Alexander, responding to the Powell Butte residents who oppose the proposed cell phone tower on the SW Williams Road property (parcel #15141400-00100-14931).

The family farm started in 1962 by my esteemed father, Tom Alexander. When dad moved here, he became fully invested and committed to his community. For over 60 years he has generously sacrificed his time, his finances and wisdom to enhance this place he calls home. There are countless people, many of whom are contesting this proposed cell tower, which have been the recipients of his kindness and more.

Our family farm has changed over time; it has expanded and contracted and is now stable. Not as much by choice, but as state and county regulations mandate. Now, let us factor in the incredible increase in population. Starting in the late 1980's, Powell Butte went from a spot on the Oregon State map, to people understanding what a gem of an area we live in. Central Oregon's population exploded! The "farming community" that I grew up in, became the ideal spot for retirees and wealthy out-of-towners looking for the exact opposite of what they had been living in for years.

To say that it is ironic how much the proposed cell phone tower is being resisted, is an understatement. To call out how hypocritical it is from these very folks that had no problem overpaying for farmland and developing it into their dream houses and how the county that profited from the new tax base created by this influx, is beyond words. State and county restrictions on sales of land, land use and development overlook their effects on local small family farms. To safeguard small family farms, there are county codes in place to permit leasing for approved infrastructure and needs of the community.

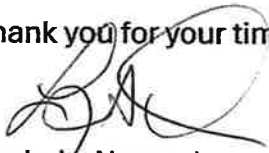
If we want to look at how much this community has changed in the past 10 years, we now have our own Volunteer Fire Dept, a Community Center, two active churches, Brasada Ranch & Resort, Mill Iron Estates, hundreds of acres of solar panels. Farm equipment crossing on Hwy 126 requires traffic control because of daily heavy traffic.

As much as I understand some of the pushback, most of it is coming from people who don't live near the site (but will benefit from the improved infrastructure), many of whom do not actively farm for a living, people who are in the process of selling their houses/land, and the rest have some very interesting ideas of how wrong a cell phone tower in their neighborhood will be-these arguments are too trivial to explain.

Finally, water rights from COID have doubled in the past 10 years; fertilizer, utilities, equipment maintenance, wages and more, have only increased and have become harder to keep up with. When a company comes to us and asks us to consider a small area of our land for a cell phone tower which offsets our insane utility costs for the year, we would be ignorant not to consider this. The only motivation behind agreeing to this was to continue to farm our property and not be another casualty of this challenging economic environment.

In closing, I understand your position is to listen to all your constituents. I simply ask that you consider your ultimate obligation, to serve the public interest and provide for the welfare of the county and its residents. Long term planning for the health and safety of Powell Butte demands better infrastructure and this proposed cell phone tower will be a step towards providing this.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LJ Alexander', written over a faint circular stamp.

Linda Jo Alexander

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