

Please Oppose House Bill 2655

Oregon's Land Use System, which prevents sprawl and saves valuable farm land, has made Oregon a great place to live and visit. This bill would erode the Land Use System significantly, and create extra traffic on small narrow rural roads, and create more conflicts with farming. More density in rural areas is not what we need. This is especially true with the recent wildfires.

Rural residential lots usually are in treed and brushy areas, and the lots are usually not quickly accessible to fire fighting vehicles. Room is needed around the home for a "buffer", or landscaped area without burnable structures or highly flammable vegetation. Packing more structures into a small lot surrounded by trees or adjacent to forested resource lands, or farm lands raising Christmas trees, would be less likely to allow this, and could be a recipe for disaster.

"Densifying" rural areas with two homes on such small acreages would ruin the whole concept of "rural". It is not a reasonable way to meet housing shortages. The better place for additional housing is within the urban area, where shopping and most employment opportunities require less driving, and living is more economical.

If "historic" homes are too small for what current owners of a rural residential lot desire, they can remodel or rebuild, instead of crowding a small lot with two homes, taxing the groundwater and septic systems.

I live in a 1972 home, which we have partially remodeled over the years. We don't need to ruin the Rural Residential zones by allowing them to be so dense they are no longer rural with little room for "green", little room for personal vegetable gardens, orchards, etc.