

Re: HB 2192

Dear Chair Helm and House Committee Members,

I am opposed to proposed HB 2192 for the following reasons:

- 1) HB 2192 suggests that it is desirable to regulate occupancy on farmlands and forestlands similarly. This is not the case. Farming usually requires preparation, maintenance and harvesting on a seasonal and yearly basis. A home on a farm is advantageous to its functioning well. Farm lands and forest lands should be regulated separately. Forest land performs better with less human intervention.
- 2) Forestland serves multiple functions. One may be resource extraction but another is environmental protection including that of wildlife, vegetation and water. Protection is interrupted by human activity and infrastructure development. Fragmentation of habitat has been shown as a major cause of species becoming threatened, endangered and made extinct. Presently there is a process for reviewing applications for forestland dwellings. HB 2192 would make that process more lax which is undesirable.
- 3) Roughly 85% of wildfires are caused by human activity. The last several years of drought and fires have revealed the expense and difficulty of protecting life, property and resources in the interface zone. Though weather will change, climate change models predict greater dangers of wildfires in our future.

Thank you for your considerations.

Sincerely,
John White