

Submitter: Devon Lawson-McCourt

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB2192

Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Hartman and Owens, and members of the Committee.

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2192, which aligns the criteria for alteration, restoration, or replacement of dwellings on lands zoned for forest use with the criteria applicable to dwellings on lands zoned for farm use. I believe this bill is a critical step towards ensuring that we have consistent standards across all lands zoned for agricultural use, and it will promote responsible development while preserving our natural resources.

I know firsthand the importance of maintaining our forest lands and the benefits they provide to our community, such as clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. At the same time, I recognize the need for landowners to have the ability to make necessary modifications to their dwellings to meet their changing needs.

HB2192 strikes a balance between these competing interests by providing clear and consistent criteria for alterations, restoration, or replacement of dwellings on lands zoned for forest use. The bill also makes permanent the temporary changes made in 2013 to laws authorizing alteration, restoration, or replacement for dwellings on lands zoned for exclusive farm use.

I urge you to support HB2192 and to ensure that our agricultural lands are managed in a responsible and sustainable manner for the benefit of our community and future generations.