

Submitter: Connie Peterson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2422

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members,

As a resident whose mother was born in Oregon, and who has called Oregon home for the majority of my 74 years, I am asking you to oppose HB 2400.

Allowing second dwellings in exclusive farm use and forest zones—as well as the nearly one million acres of land outside UGBs zoned for rural residential use in Oregon—would threaten Oregon’s farmland, puts intense pressure on our groundwater, and add to our wildfire risk. This is a slippery slope I emphatically oppose!

By rejecting this measure, you can:

Protect Farms and Forests – Oregon’s land use laws exist to keep farm and forest lands productive. HB 2400 would allow additional housing on these lands without requiring that housing to support agriculture or forestry, driving up land costs and making it even harder for farmers and foresters to continue their work.

Keep Groundwater Clean – More rural housing would mean more wells and septic systems, straining already limited groundwater supplies and risking groundwater contamination as nitrate pollution from septic wastewater leaches into shallow aquifers. WE are already seeing serious problems with nitrates in the ground water system between LaPine and Sunriver here in Deschutes County. Passing this bill would only exacerbate the problem, when there is already no plan to adequately address this current problem.

Help Wildlife – In Central Oregon, our mule deer populations are plummeting due to habitat loss. Increasing development in sensitive areas would worsen this crisis.

Air quality - here in Central Oregon we are already dealing with air quality issues that seriously impact our health. Sprawl means more miles traveled; transportation is already a contributing cause of air pollution as are wildfires and related mitigation efforts, which address in my next point as well.

Reduce Wildfire Risk – Oregon’s rural lands are already at high wildfire risk as we see clearly in many areas of our State. As the reality of climate change is bearing down on all of us, this is not the time to take allow sprawl. More homes mean more

human-caused fires putting more people in danger when fires occur, raising costs for insurance and straining emergency services.

Please protect Oregon's rural lands and reject HB 2400. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,