

Submitter: Matt Van Wey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2316

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2400, HB 2422, and HB 2316. I am writing to urge you to vote against these three bills.

I am a farmer in rural Clackamas County who opposes HB 2400, HB 2422, and HB 2316, which will negatively affect the agricultural, forested, and public lands that sustain our communities. These bills disregard existing laws, especially our land use laws that encourage smart growth and the protection of agricultural and forest lands that Oregonians rely on for food, fiber, and jobs.

This bill bypasses our existing, functional process to expand UGBs and would fundamentally change the character of our landscape by allowing massive development in some of our most beautiful and sensitive lands at the edges of our towns and cities. Instead, the state should inventory surplus publicly owned land inside UGBs for possible development for affordable housing. HB 2316, with its focus on lands outside UGBs that have no infrastructure and goals to build only detached dwellings, is very expensive, farther from the things people need, and ignores that many of these lands include sensitive natural resources and are active recreation areas. This bill's focus on building housing for people with middle and lower incomes is better directed inside cities and towns, because Oregonians need housing near schools, stores, and services. We have thousands of vacant acres inside our UGBs, including publicly-owned lands, that are suitable for housing but need an extension of a road or some pipes. We should focus investments and policy changes on housing for all in these places.

Thank you for the time and opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Matt Van Wey  
Quackenbush Farm