

Submitter: Walt Mintkeski

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2400

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

As a resident of Oregon since 1972, and a strong supporter of Oregon's land use laws 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, put intense pressure on our groundwater, and add to our wildfire risk.

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 the housing support agriculture or forestry. This would drive up land costs and make it harder for farmers and foresters to continue their work.
- Reduce Wildfire Risk – Oregon's rural lands are already at high wildfire risk, but fortunately Oregon's land use laws have put us a step ahead of other states when it comes to mitigating our risk. This is not the time to take a step back! More homes mean more human-caused fires and more people in danger when fires occur, straining emergency services.
- Help Wildlife – In Central Oregon, our mule deer populations are plummeting due to habitat loss. Increasing development in sensitive areas would worsen this crisis.

Please protect Oregon's rural lands and reject HB 2400.