

Submitter: Gary Vallens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2400

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 an Oregonian 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.

HB 2400 would fragment Oregon's agricultural and forest lands by allowing an additional house on every rural property. It is written in a way to encourage short-term resale, with no safeguards for protecting these valuable lands that feed our communities. People who want or need an extra home on their rural property already have a variety of mechanisms to secure such a home, including seven different ways on farm land and 6 ways on forest lands. Plus, Oregon law already allows new homes for relatives of agricultural and forest land managers, and additional new homes for unrelated farm workers.

Please do not pock mark our rural and agricultural lands with houses that will make farming and forestry more difficult and not truly address our housing and homelessness problems.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide input on this bad bill.

Gary Vallens