

Submitter: Laura Hanks

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2400

I am asking you to oppose HB 2400 for the following reasons:

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 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.

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

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 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.

Thank you for considering these issues, Laura Hanks