

Submitter: Christina Harrington

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2422

Dear members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2422. I am writing to urge you to vote no on this bill.

I am an Oregonian that greatly appreciates the rich natural environment, local agriculture, and open space that Oregon provides. I believe this bill 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 2422 would attempt to create sprawl from the outside in by allowing counties to bypass land use laws to more than double the density of certain rural lands with case-by-case rezoning. It also bypasses critical systems that ensure everyone, not just well-financed individual landowners, have access to the planning process. Our land use planning program intentionally includes safeguards, encouraging development where it is less costly, where sufficient infrastructure exists, where people have access to equitable transportation options, and where agricultural and forestry operations won't be impacted. This bill encourages Oregon to ignore unintended negative consequences on our precious resources.

Thank you for this opportunity for me to share my concerns. I hope you will vote no on HB2422.