

Submitter: Malcolm Costello

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2400

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

As a resident of Oregon for some 33 years, who raised my two sons here, I have spent every summer exploring the rural regions, farms and forests of our beautiful State by car, bicycle, and on foot. I now live in Bend, in Deschutes County, and in my travels and conversations am becoming increasingly aware of the pressures on rural Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook Counties outside of growth beyond the urban growth boundaries – more competition for groundwater, growing wildfire risk, loss of habitat and increasing land costs due to speculative development making it harder for farmers and foresters to sustain their lifestyles. I appreciate you providing the opportunity to comment on HB 2400.

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, rejecting the principles that have informed Oregon Land Use policies for the last 50 years.

Please protect Oregon's rural lands and reject HB 2400. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,