

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
From: Aileen Kaye
Date: 2-10-25

Re:” No” on HB 2400

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, and members of the Committee,

I hope you will vote “no” on HB 2400 which “allows the owner of property outside an urban growth boundary to site an additional dwelling on the property for occupancy by a relative of the owner.”

I am a longtime member of the Oregon Farm Bureau, 1000 Friends of Oregon, Friends of Marion County, and more recently Friends of Family Farmers and Ag for Oregon. I have been a horse owner for 45years, so I care deeply about keeping rural lands rural.

This legislation is not needed because there are already ways for an additional dwelling to be built for **legitimate** reasons via Oregon’s current land use planning program. And adding houses outside the UGB obviously leads to lack of land for agriculture.

I wish legislators who advocate the demise of our urban growth boundary procedures would realize that without farms, we have no food. I wish they would remember the late Sen. Peter Courtney’s warnings that water in Oregon will become a crisis. He repeatedly warned that water will become the next gold.

Allowing more housing outside the UGB urbanizes our rural areas. The last two legislative sessions have been very discouraging to me. We cannot continue to destroy farmland by allowing more water guzzling data centers and semi-conductor facilities, solar generating facilities, Amazon distribution centers, housing developments, etc. Once the farmland and water is gone, it is gone for good.

There is plenty of data on farmland loss in Oregon: “Farmland in Oregon; A look at the Numbers”, “Death By 1000 Cuts”, stats from the Capital

Press, OSU, etc. You might also want to watch the prophetic film, "Soylent Green" in which only the very wealthy could afford to buy fruits and vegetables. Continuing down this path of using agricultural lands for non-agricultural uses is dangerous and short-sighted. A recent editorial in the Capital Press stated, "Domestic food production should be viewed as a vital strategic priority. A country that can't feed itself can't sustain itself against hostile threats. Farmland is a finite resource that must be held dear."

I urge a "no" vote on HB 2400.