

Submitter: Sarah Deumling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2400

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. My name is Sarah Deumling. I live in rural Polk County and am the co-owner/manager, with my son Ben, of the Zena Forest and Zena Forest Products. We have 10 permanent employees in addition to seasonal contract workers, supply softwood logs to local mills as well as hardwood flooring and other hardwood products to our greater local community.

I strongly oppose HB 2400, having lived through Measures 37 and 49 which also tried to weaken our, in my opinion, precious land use laws which exist to protect our infinitely valuable farm and forest lands from sprawl. Every new house pulls more resource land permanently out of production which, in turn, reduces the number of jobs in forestry and agriculture and also reduces the financial contribution of our farm and forestry sectors, both local and export, to our Oregon economy.

Local = money stays in our communities, Export = new money comes to our communities.

This bill, along with HB 2422 and HB 2316, are fools' errands. Even the most determined climate deniers that I know have come around to recognizing the dilemma we are in. Our populations are growing, we will need more food and fiber. Importing is becoming more expensive and unpredictable. If/when times get harder it is our fertile land and our precious water that will make life possible. These bills move us in the wrong direction. The folks who are in the greatest need of housing need moderate or low income housing near work places and other amenities, not rural single family dwellings with long, expensive and climate change exacerbating commutes.

Please reject HB 2400 in the interest of an abundant and livable Oregon for all. Our children and grandchildren will thank us for being on the right side of history.

My apologies for too many words but heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to submit them.

Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling

P.S. I find HB 2400 disingenuous - 18 months to be occupied by a relative and then just another rural dwelling to be sold or rented to the highest bidder. Why not just tell

us from the get-go what the intention is?