

Ag for Oregon

Jan 10, 2025

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Re: HB2422

From: Mike McCarthy, Ag for Oregon

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB2422 on behalf of my farm and Ag for Oregon.

I am a first generation farmer in Hood River County. HB2422 will negatively affect farming in our county and counties across the state. The allowance of additional dwellings on rural residential lands requires a very complex and complete planning process, not an expedited process.

The rural residential zone was meant to be a gradual transition zone between residential and farm zones.

1. Placing new homes on these parcels will create conflicts with neighbors and farming practices. Early morning and night farm work noise are always a challenge. Careful planning and mitigation of impacts to farming and residential neighbors is essential.
2. These new dwellings will be near streams and wetlands and will not allow room for future septic field replacement.
3. Careful evaluation of groundwater availability for more exempt wells in all areas of the state is critical in these times of aquifer draw down.
4. Immediate new infrastructure will be required for these new communities scattered in rural Oregon. Our tax structure will not pay for new infrastructure.

This bill tries to side step legitimate planning processes required.

Please oppose this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.