

Submitter: Sarah Deumling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2422

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 2422. 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 2422, 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.

Re: Oregon's housing needs - Cluttering our productive rural areas further (sprawl) with more housing flies in the face of our greatest threat which is climate change. If we do not get a handle on protecting the livability of our state the other problems won't matter. More rural housing means more driving to all amenities which contributes to more warming and extreme weather which is costly to the state, rural infrastructure is more costly than infill housing in towns and cities with existing infrastructure. Our existing land use laws have helped to make Oregon the desirable state that it is. Weakening them is a fool's errand. Please oppose HB 2422 as one more attempt to line the pockets of a few at the expense of the rest.

Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling