



February 10, 2025

House Committee on Housing & Homelessness

Re: HB 2422 - OPPOSE

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Anderson, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge ("Friends") is a non-profit organization with approximately 5,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Please oppose HB 2422.

HB 2422 would not address low-income housing or middle housing but, instead, would allow rezoning of what are currently rural lands to one-acre lots for McMansions. This would fragment agricultural land, result in costly and environmentally harmful commutes for residents of the new developments, drive up infrastructure expenses for local governments, and heighten tensions between farmers and newcomers who quickly realize they don't want the inconveniences of living near active farmlands. **HB 2422 is about hurting resource industries for expensive and climate-altering sprawl, not about fixing the housing problem.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Steven D. McCoy
Staff Attorney