

Submitter: David Green

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2400

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members,

As an interested resident of Deschutes County, I am asking you to oppose HB 2400.

Allowing second dwellings in exclusive farm use and forest zones would threaten Oregon's farmland, puts intense pressure on our groundwater, and add to our wildfire risk. We need to save water for productive agricultural uses, not hobby farms and lawns in the desert. We need to direct development away from fire prone areas. We need to concentrate government services such as fire protection and roads, where they can be delivered efficiently, not scattered across our rural areas. We need to ensure that our ground water is not further degraded by more and more septic systems delivering nitrates and other pollutants.

By rejecting this measure, you can:

Protect Farms and Forests – Oregon's land use laws exist to keep farm and forest lands productive. HB 2400 would allow additional housing on these lands without requiring that housing to support agriculture or forestry, driving up land costs and making it harder for farmers and foresters to continue their work.

Keep Groundwater Clean – More rural housing would mean more wells and septic systems, straining already limited groundwater supplies and risking groundwater contamination as nitrate pollution from septic wastewater leaches into shallow aquifers.

Help Wildlife – In Central Oregon, our mule deer populations are plummeting due to habitat loss. Increasing development in sensitive areas would worsen this crisis.

Reduce Wildfire Risk – Oregon's rural lands are already at high wildfire risk, but fortunately Oregon's land use laws have put us a step ahead other states when it comes to mitigating our risk. This is not the time to take a step back! More homes mean more human-caused fires and more people in danger when fires occur, straining emergency services.

Please protect Oregon's rural lands and reject HB 2400. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,
David Green
Bend, Oregon