

Submitter: Hope Vaccher
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3928

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3928. I urge you to vote against this unnecessary and ill conceived bill.

I am a fifty-year Oregonian. I opposes HB 3928, which will negatively affect our essential agricultural and forestry lands and the rural communities that rely on them, without taking any meaningful steps to address Oregon's shortage of affordable, accessible housing inside cities. Year after year, session after session, the legislative body has continued to be lobbied punch holes in existing statutory laws that regulate development in the farm and forest zones, yet the persons pushing these bills never present data to support their desire and lobbying for more holes in existing laws.

This bill will likely have the effect of increasing the price of agricultural and forest lands statewide, enabling developers profits, speculative pricing and doing nothing, again. to address the actual housing need inside cities - that being other than market rate subdivisions and related housing.

New housing unrelated to agricultural and forest production is better directed inside cities and towns, near the schools, stores, and services Oregonians need. We have thousands of vacant acres inside our UGBs that are suitable for housing but simply need an extension of a road or some pipes. This is where we should focus investments and policy changes to provide housing – not on remote, expensive-to-serve lands in and among our agricultural and forest lands.

A vote against this bill is an opportunity to keep monied development interests out of the precious agricultural and forestry lands that sustain Oregon and rural families.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please vote no on HB 3928.