

Submitter: Phillip Callaway

On Behalf Of:

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 House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3928. I live on 38 acres of mixed woodlands zoned Farm/Forest near Sweet Home. I oppose HB 3928 because of the negative effects that the ensuing residential sprawl would have on our farm and forest lands. I urge you to vote NO on this bill.

The housing shortage should be primarily addressed by creating more housing inside connected communities, housing that is affordable and accessible. Converting farm and forest land to residential development will drive up the costs of these resource lands, making it more difficult for new operators to afford land, and for existing operations to expand. Many Oregon communities are dependent upon the success of their local farm and forest operations. The resource lands that these operations depend upon must be protected.

The encroachment of residential sprawl into Oregon's resource lands destroys the habitat that big game populations depend upon, as do many other species. Wildlife is already under incredible stress from the effects of climate change and Oregon must continue to protect wildlife habitat as required under Goal 5 of the land use regulations.

More residential development in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) puts more Oregonians at risk of wildfire and puts further strain on the resources used to fight Oregon's wildfires. Oregon is already having trouble finding the financial resources to pay for the rapidly increasing costs to fight wildfire and building more housing in the WUI will only exacerbate the problem.

Please vote to keep development interests out of our resource lands and vote NO on HB 3928.

Sincerely,
Phillip Callaway
Crawfordsville, OR