

Submitter: Sue Kelso-Haines

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I am writing to OPPOSE SB 1578 which authorizes rural counties to rezone up to 50 acres of agricultural or forest land for residential development at urban densities without complying with state planning laws. This bill also authorizes accessory dwelling units, up to 2,500 square feet and unrelated to agriculture, for every existing home in the exclusive farm use (EFU) zone. I SUPPORT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT BUT NOT OUTSIDE OF URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARIES (UGB). We are rapidly losing farm and forest land to development. This impacts wildlife (whose populations are declining at a highly concerning rate), local communities who depend on forest and farm land for economic benefit from farm products, recreation and agritourism and it creates wildfire hazards when roads and development are added. Finally, we live among beauty that is rare to find in this overdeveloped world. Undeveloped lands such as these are critical to the health of humans. Once housing is added, a gas station is needed and then a store and then more stores, ruining what was once critical wildlife habitat, forest and farm land. Growth should be contained in the UGB boundaries.

PLEASE OPPOSE SB1578.

Sincerely,

Sue Kelso-Haines