

Submitter: Ruth Lizotte
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2400
Feb. 7, 2025

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson and members of the House committee on Housing and Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2400, HB 2422 and HB2316. I am opposed to all three bills because they will negatively affect our precious and shrinking agricultural, forested and public lands of Oregon. Once they are gone, they are gone. It is up to you to save the open lands from sprawling housing, and I appreciate your work and considering my letter of opposition.

A few years back, “infilling” made sense and keeping urban growth boundaries solid did too. It still does!

In 1973, my husband and I bought a fifty-acre farm in Silverton, Oregon because of the Tom McCall HB 100. We had lived in the Calif. Bay area in the late 1960's and saw that precious farm land turned into sprawling housing communities. Oregon was the place to go if we wanted to have a lifestyle that allowed us to raise sheep and vegetables and invest in a place that would not be destroyed by encroaching development that is direct conflict natural lands we Oregonians so revere.

We sold our farm in 2003 and, though we didn't make a lot of money on it, we were glad the laws were such that, despite the pressures of developers trying to subdivide it, it remained intact; it is still a 50 acres farm surrounded by other family farms. Were it not for strict land use zoning, Oregon would look like California and the strip of Colorado between Fort Collins and Denver where we lived before relocating to Oregon.

I'm sure you know the expenses to the state for developing public lands and you also know this beautiful state of Oregon is known for its family farms, its beautiful, healthy forests and lakes and is a lifestyle most Oregonians have selected because of the protection of proactive house-bills. As we see the climate changing rapidly, it is more important than ever to save our trees and plants and soils that are some of the best in the country.

I urge you to think of all Oregonians, particularly the generations of the future, and vote NO on HB 2400, HB2422, and HB 2316! Hold the boundaries around urban areas and do not let personal greed of land owners chop up what is left. I realize

there is great pressure from people with small farms to make a lot money by selling to developers. Your vote of NO is the only way to protect Oregon from environmental destruction.

Thank you for considering my comments and allowing this opportunity for public input.

Sincerely,
Ruth Lizotte
Ashland, Oregon