

Submitter: Sarah Deumling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB648

Re: 648 -1

SB 648 -1 is a terrible idea. Agriculture and forestry are two of the most important industries for Oregon now and even more so going forward. They cannot leave Oregon as the industries from other places that are lured by financial incentives can. We live on and keep trying to make a living on family forestland in western Oregon among family farmers trying to do the same. Our communities are already suffering from many uncertainties and structural changes in our economies. Among our challenges is the diminishment of our communities, both socially and environmentally, due to ever more houses (due to a seemingly endless number of loopholes (or allowable uses) in our land use laws. Our communities need people living in our houses who are part of our rural communities, hopefully work here or near here and plan to stay. To allow vacation rentals as the -1 amendment would , would add a whole new set of challenges for our communities. Vacation rental folks will have no connection to our communities, will have likely little understanding of farming or forestry or rural life, Our working farms and forests are not somewhere to have weekend or weeklong parties far from the oversight which might exist in towns. If you legislators would like to help rural economies/communities help keep land prices such that we can afford to continue managing farms and forests, incentivise local over imported products in our market places and demand it in public purchasing, expand access to broadband, etc. I even see the -1 amendment making it more attractive for would-be absentee owners to purchase land to make money off a short term rental (or two or three) and leasing out the other acres. Another way to impoverish our communities and raise the price of land.

Nothing is more important to Oregon's and our grandchildren's future than intact, healthy farm and forestry communities with their associated productive ecosystems. I urge you to stop 648 -1 in its tracks.

Thanks you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.