

Submitter: John White

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2192

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

Generally, farm and forest lands do not have enough in common to justify the same regulations. Forests are meant to protect our air and water, native plants and wildlife in ways that do not apply to farms. Forest fragmentation is one of the prime causes of habitat loss. HB 2192 loosens protections that are increasingly under pressure due to development and climate change.

More specifically, the purpose of HB 2192 purports to be designed for the replacement of dwellings destroyed by fire but in fact its passage would yield results that extend well beyond what existing land use regulations would allow. HB 2192 extends siting options, time allowed for replacement, and authority not previously given to building officials. It is doubtful that county records would in many cases be adequate to verify the allowable dwelling claims going back 30 years.

Oregon's land use laws have protected us reasonably well. HB 2192 undermines those laws and would result in developments beyond its stated scope.

Please vote against this bill.

Thank you for your time and considerations,
John White
Creswell