

Submitter: Matt Van Wey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2400

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 2400, HB 2422, and HB 2316. I am writing to urge you to vote against these three bills.

I am a farmer in rural Clackamas County who opposes HB 2400, HB 2422, and HB 2316, which will negatively affect the agricultural, forested, and public lands that sustain our communities. These bills disregard existing laws, especially our land use laws that encourage smart growth and the protection of agricultural and forest lands that Oregonians rely on for food, fiber, and jobs.

Increasing density and housing development opportunities on farms and forestland is not the solution to housing shortage and affordability in Oregon. Work within existing UGBs using the existing systems to identify smart areas of potential growth through a publicly involved process. Increasing density on farm and forestland only degrades the working-land value of this limited resource, possibly to the point of unsustainable economics for the farmer. At a certain point, given enough development, high value farm-lands are only high value in name but will never be actively farmed again. Do we want to become fully dependent on the Central Valley of California for all of our domestically grown produce? Do we want our rural communities to mirror the suburban sprawl of the front range of Colorado? These bills mark the first steps in that direction.

Thank you for the time and opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Matt Van Wey
Quackenbush Farm