

Submitter: Robert Emmons
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB648

TO: Senate Committee on Housing & Development
FROM: LandWatch Lane County
SUBJECT: SB 648-1

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the committee:

Please accept the following comments on behalf of LandWatch Lane County, a non-profit that for over 25 years has worked with neighbors in Lane County to protect farm and forest land, natural areas and open space.

We are dismayed to once again confront an amendment to a bill whose passage would further weaken the protection of our rural resource lands-- among the richest and most productive in the world. Any and all dwellings and other structures on land zoned for farm and forest uses or a mix of farm and forest zones should be tied to the purpose and restrictions of that zoning.

The proposed amendment to allow vacation rentals in residential structures on farm and forestland—slipped into a bill governing home occupations in a last minute gut and stuff-- both undermines the integrity of the legislative process and the purpose of Goals 3 and 4 to preserve our agricultural and forest lands for farm and forest uses. Those do not and should not include occupations and activities that would, for example, displace farm workers and drive up the price of land for farming.

For these reasons LandWatch Lane County requests that SB 648-1 be denied.

Thank you.

Robert Emmons, President
LandWatch Lane County