

Submitter: Robert Emmons
On Behalf Of: LandWatch Lane County
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure: HB2192

The title of the bill before you suggests that a right has been taken away and needs a fix, that it's only reasonable and equitable to align the forest dwelling provisions with the EFU provisions. But forestry and farming are not the same and do not justify the same approval criteria for replacement dwellings.

Moreover, this bill would allow a new owner to resurrect a dwelling that might have been destroyed fifty years ago. However, new owners already have the right to replace a dwelling that was on a property when they bought it, and buyers are expected to inform themselves of the restrictions on the property when it was purchased.

A dwelling in Lane County on F-2, impacted forest land, is a conditional not an outright permitted use. The priority in this zone, as in State Goal 4, is the protection of our forests and the expectation that those privileged to live on such properties will serve as stewards of these resources.

This prospective fix is not about something that is broken and unfair, but is rather a transparent ploy by Dave Hunnicutt and the developers and their consultants he represents to gain the unrestricted right to develop forest lands with home sites. Allowing this to happen will, among other things, put those sites at high risk of wildfire, endangering the lives of dwellers, wildlife and firefighters and contribute to global warming.

We urge you to deny HB 2192.

Thank you.

Robert Emmons, President
LandWatch Lane County