

Submitter: Gary Vallens
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2316

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 an Oregonian 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.

HB 2316 would disregard our sensitive natural areas that Oregon has built a national reputation on. Sprawl housing development, outside UGBs on public lands, is expensive, adversely impacts natural resources, and does not meet our housing needs. We should look at surplus public lands inside UGBs for housing development – where people can walk to school, see their neighborhood doctor, pick up produce from the corner grocer, and live within a thriving community. Lands outside our cities and towns will require significant infrastructure costs to become viable for building homes, and this bill would unnecessarily burden the state with those costs – before housing is even built. There are smarter, more affordable ways to build housing.

The housing and homelessness problems should be addressed by additional development inside UGBs where there already infrastructure. Sprawl housing development outside UGBs is the wrong answer for both those needing the housing and for the public that would have to pay to develop infrastructure to support it.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide input on this bad bill.

Gary Vallens