

Submitter: Steven Freer  
On Behalf Of: myself  
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2422

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members:

I am writing in today to ask you to oppose HB 2422. Here's what I don't like about this bill:

It weakens land use protections and promotes sprawling and haphazard development by allowing counties to bypass existing land use laws and individualized upzoning of rural lands, potentially doubling rural land density.

It limits public involvement in Oregon's intentionally inclusive land use planning process. This bill makes it easier for well-financed landowners to push through zoning changes without broader community input. Too many of our rural communities are at the mercy of deep pocketed developers and local commissioners prone to financial incentives from these developers. This robs the broader public, who are affected by the impacts of this development on water resources, air quality, traffic, and the degradation of wildlife habitat of its voice in decisions about local development.

It threatens resources and infrastructure. Oregon's current land use system encourages development where infrastructure, transportation, and services already exist. This is an efficient and cost effective path to growth. HB 2422 disregards these safeguards, straining resources and harming farms, forests, and water supplies.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue, and for your consideration. Please protect Oregon's rural lands - a critical legacy for future generations of Oregonians, - and reject HB 2422.

Sincerely,  
Steven D. Freer  
A citizen, voter, and taxpayer in Deschutes County, Oregon.