



[SAVE HELVETIA](#)

13260 NW Bishop Rd
Hillsboro, OR 97124

February 9, 2025

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Opposition to HB 2422

Save Helvetia is a private non-profit advocacy organization that has been active over 15 years to protect farm and forestlands in Washington County. We organized in 2010 during the Urban and Rural Reserves planning process, studying lands in and around the Helvetia area, submitting testimonies to Washington County, Metro, and LCDC. We then became appellants to the Oregon State Court of Appeals, prevailing in our citizen science assertions that the county and Metro had misapplied the law and administrative rules in selecting the urban and rural reserves. The court ruling invalidated the proposed reserves and the negotiated result became the Grand Bargain legislation (HB 4078) of 2014. We have since become an affiliate of 1000 Friends of Oregon, monitoring and defending land use laws and principles in Washington County.

We oppose HB 2422. The bill would allow the zoning of 1 acre parcels on many rural residential lands. While this is proposed as a fix to our housing shortage, adding housing in the rural areas is problematic. Many counties require 2 acre septic set asides, should drain fields fail. Adding this housing would require well drilling in close proximity to other wells, creating added demands to area water resources. Infrastructure creation for a single home is cost intensive when you add the cost of well drilling, septic development, and bringing other utilities to the site. If the parcels are in close proximity to agriculture and forestry, it adds risk of re to crops and tree lots. Agriculture and forestry practices include the application of herbicides, insecticides, and fertilizers, some of which are sprayed from the air. This brings conflicts to residents but also to the practice of agriculture and forestry. 1 acre parcelization breaks up tracts of land making plowing and harvesting a problem. Noxious weeds are a threat to grass seed farming: crop purity is demanded to bring these crops successfully to market. Adding residents to agricultural and forestry areas brings many conflicts, is cost intensive and is not an adequate solution to our housing shortage.

Respectfully,

Robert Bailey, Secretary

Faun Hosey, pres@savehelvetia.org for **Save Helvetia**

Advancing policies, leaders and actions that protect Helvetia's treasured resources.