

Submitter: Marilyn Koenitzer
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2400

Date: 10 February 2025

From: Marilyn Koenitzer; 20856 Bobwhite Ct, Bend OR 97701
To: House Committee on Homelessness, Chair Marsh,
Vice-chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members
Re: HB 2400

As a 47-year Oregon resident and as a former business owner of Forest Data Incorporated, with my late husband, Will Koenitzer, I ask you to oppose HB 2400. Our firm mapped millions of acres of Oregon forestlands through aerial photo interpretation. We saw lots of clear cuts dissecting connectivity between forest stands. We saw both good and bad forestry practices.

Because of intense population pressure on housing in Oregon, we are in danger of losing our valuable resource lands that sustain us. In central Oregon we are losing groundwater, with no recovery in sight. Allowing second homes in EFU and forest zones, and in rural residential areas will further deplete groundwater (which is tied to surface water) and add to our wildfire risk, especially in central, eastern and southern Oregon. In central Oregon, we also are having a hard time balancing water needs between agricultural areas and municipalities.

We need to keep additional housing inside urban growth boundaries. Doing so will enable us to better protect our farms and forests; lessen new wells and septic tanks and thereby groundwater contamination; lessen habitat loss for wildlife and reduce wildfire risk.

Many people new to Oregon have no idea that we have water problems, and no idea that wells are drying up. They have no idea that places like La Pine have serious ground water contamination from septic fields in the rural areas.

Please protect Oregon's rural lands and reject HB 2400.

Thank you for your work on this committee!