

Submitter: Dan Keeley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2400

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. I am writing to urge you to vote against HB 2400, HB 2422, and HB 2316.

I am Dan Keeley, I farm hazelnuts in the Saint Paul area. Without controls on urban sprawl neither I nor most of my neighbors would still be farming. Agriculture in the Willamette Valley cannot compete with warehouses and subdivisions for land, water and space on the roads. Too many people want to live here. If you want to continue to have commercial agriculture here, HB 2400, HB 2422, and HB 2316 must be voted down. These bills over ride land use laws designed encourage smart growth and the protection of agricultural and forest lands that Oregonians rely on for food, fiber, and jobs. They are in fact designed to hollow out and eventually destroy land use planning in general.

You may have heard the expression that “failing to plan and planning to fail are the same thing”. As a Civil Engineer I can assure you that designing urban infrastructure is hard enough when there is a plan to guide the designs. Without a land use plan, designing water supply, sewer treatment plants, power systems and roads becomes guess work. America and Oregon are no longer rich enough for that kind of inefficiency even without climate change. With climate change now obvious to almost everyone, building more sprawling, low density, road dependent communities is a recipe for disaster. That is why we must concentrate our efforts on building efficient, attractive, livable cities close to natural areas and not taking the easy way. Easy as in the well off fleeing to sprawling suburbs and exurbs where they don’t have to worry about actually fixing the problems.

Provide funding for finishing urban services inside urban growth boundaries. Build affordable housing inside those areas where it is actually affordable instead of just subsidized.

Please give , HB 2400, HB 2422, and HB 2316 the burial they deserve.

Thank you for considering my comments and allowing this opportunity for public input.