

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development
April 23, 2013 Public Hearing, (HR C 3 pm) Regarding House Bill 2441a

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which is a county chapter of Oregon Small Woodlands Association

My request:

Approve HB 2441a because it corrects an unfair advantage that farmers on land zoned for agriculture have over the woodland managers whose land is zoned for forestry.

My rationale:

Both these kinds of businesses care for the land using tools of various kinds, from small hand tools to tractors bigger than your car. Both need those tools to be available on site. A simple shed will often serve the purposes of protection from the elements and from animal intruders -- including humans. Such sheds are simpler to permit and to build.

We do both farming and forestry on our land zoned EFU. Our family qualified for building an ag building. In it we store tools for both kinds of land use, especially our farm tractor. Almost any day of the year I may use its front loader to clear windblown limbs or trees off a forest road, hoist a short log onto my truck or move crushed rock to where the road needs it. With a mower, grader blade or logging winch mounted on its rear I can also keep the roads in shape and gather logs toward the road for accessibility to customers. Yesterday I used it to pull out a firewood customer whose trailer was a bit too heavy, helping him up our slippery road toward the pavement.

In the shed we also keep an old 4x4 pickup that on wet days gets me around to monitor forest conditions or carry tools. On dry summer days it carries 300 gallons of water with pump and hose as my onsite fire protection.

On the wettest days our shed may be the best place to sit for lunch or a crew meeting, or recently, even scratch out some notes for legislative testimony.

Why should not a neighbor on adjacent land under forest zoning have similar ability to build protection for such necessary tools of the trade? I do not deserve the economic advantage I now enjoy. Nor does this situation foster good community in rural areas. In the mid-1800s when our family settled where I live and work they needed tools, buildings and good neighbors. We all still do. You can help by getting the law changed to fit our needs.