

Dear Chair Tomei and members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing,

As a full time farmer and rural resident, I strongly urge you to oppose House Bills 2937 and 2938. Oregon's agricultural industry is a huge part of our state's economy, the second largest sector after high tech and the employer directly and indirectly of more than 12% of all Oregon workers. In order to grow our crops successfully, we need reasonably priced housing for our employees and an environment free of conflict with homeowners.

These Bills are far too broad in scope and not well thought out. They do not provide for placement of dwellings near other existing structures, which will increase potential conflicts with non-farmers. In addition they will allow for more vacation rentals on farmland, raising the price of housing.

Oregon has a long and proud history of protecting our farmland from development. The impact of this new type of residence in EFU zones will further reduce acreage available for crops and hurt our agricultural economy.

Oregon farmers understand the need for increased, affordable housing. These Bills are not the way to achieve that goal.

Thank you,

Jim Gilbert

Jim Gilbert
Northwoods Nursery