



P.O Box 1083
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February 5, 2019

Helping to shape the use of our natural resources to protect the quality of life in Yamhill County.

House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97901

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2225

Chair Clem and members of the Committee:

Friends of Yamhill County works to protect natural resources through the implementation of land use planning goals, policies, and laws that maintain and improve the present and future quality of life in Yamhill County for both urban and rural residents. We support HB 2225.

In Yamhill County we are seeing increasing misuse of what was originally intended to address a specific problem of limited scope to now create multiple dwellings in forestland. Established residents are confused by the deed shuffling and lot line adjustments that precede the development. Those that do receive legal notices are not in a position to understand the machinations at work. By the time the intent to develop becomes evident they are without recourse. These abuses were not intended by the drafters.

A larger issue with much broader impact is the increase wildfire risk that this development presents. The cost of firefighting in money and human suffering increases as human activity moves further from the established water supplies and firefighting resources. As our rain and temperature patterns change, vegetation is stressed and the security of water supplies compromised. That these may be seasonally occupied or rented to people who are not familiar with wildfire risks and prevention is a further hazard.

We are also concerned about the fragmentation of productive forest land and wildlife impacts. Rarely a week goes by without a report of a wild animal considered "too close to people". The discussion usually speaks to loss of habitat. But more and more we hear about wildlife becoming habituated to humans and our built areas. These forest template dwellings have impact far beyond their lot line.

We strongly urge support of HB 2225 and amendment of ORS 215.750 to clarify the intent, limit abuse, and address Oregon's ever increasing wildfire risks.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Jernstedt

Kathryn Jernstedt
President
Friends of Yamhill County

Cc: Representative Ron Noble

HB 2225 FYC