

Watts Remy

From: hopsbran@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 12:12 PM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Comments re HB 3024

Dear Remy,

Please distribute to Committee members the following comments regarding HB 3024.

Thank you.

Robert Emmons

Senate Committee members:

May 8, 2019

Please accept the following comments on my own behalf and on behalf of LandWatch Lane County, a 501©3 non-profit dedicated to the protection of Lane County's rural lands.

Over 50 years ago it was evident to those concerned about the loss of Oregon's farm and forestland, natural areas and open space that the "fire at Eden's gate" would become a catastrophic conflagration without statewide protective measures in place. SB 100, an enlightened governor and the state land use program he brought to fruition established land use regulation unique to Oregon, a model for the nation and an antidote to the free-for-all occurring in the state south of us and heading our way.

For the most part Oregon's system of land use goals and comprehensive plans has served it well. But development pressures, manipulations and compromises were in play from the program's inception. As people continued to pour into the state—now in exponential numbers—development interests and the political influence to enable them proliferated as well. As the fire grew hotter, the rules and regulations serving as a firewall began to crumble.

Oregon's farm and forestlands are now growing guesthouses, accessory dwellings, wedding venues, template dwellings, schools, churches and golf courses. HB 3024 would further the conglomeration by allowing more houses on farmland regardless of when they may have been removed in the past, whether taxes have been paid and whether they are associated with farm practices. Critically, HB 3024 would overturn a recent Oregon Supreme Court decision that reasonably allows farmers to replace dilapidated farm dwellings on which they've been paying taxes for the last five years.

In other words, acceding to this proposal, clearly motivated by callous self-interest, will simply add more fuel to the fire that little by little, lot by lot, has been consuming our resource lands and natural areas and with them our sense of place.

Please honor the Supreme Court decision by voting no on 3024.

Thank you.

Robert Emmons, President
LandWatch Lane County