

Submitter: Phillip Callaway

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and  
Water

Measure: HB2192

February 21, 2023

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Owens, and members of the  
Committee,

My wife and I live on 38 acres of woodlands in Linn County, near Sweet Home. I am  
strongly opposed to HB 2192.

If passed, this legislation would lead to more dwellings being built in farm and forest  
resource zoning. This is an ongoing battle in Oregon as developers seek more ways  
to build on resource lands that are protected under Goal 3 and Goal 4.

During the Labor Day wildfires of 2020, our property was ½ mile from the Level 3  
evacuations for the Holiday Farm fire. In the aftermath of those wildfires, we should  
recognize that we should be building fewer homes in the Wildland Urban Interface  
(WUI). Every dwelling placed on forestland is a fire risk in two ways.

First, every dwelling is a potential fire source. Most wildfires are human caused and  
can be started by a homeowner mowing, using power equipment, or burning brush.  
Not everyone is aware, or follows, the Oregon Department of Forestry restrictions  
during fire season.

Second, every dwelling on forestland is vulnerable to wildfire that moves onto their  
property. Every dwelling needs to have defensible space and take other precautions  
such as 1/8" screens over vents. There is a huge effort currently underway to  
educate forestland homeowners to take these steps to protect their homes. More  
dwellings in the WUI mean more firefighting resources are needed to protect them  
and puts the firefighters at risk that are called upon to provide that protection.

Developers are already being allowed to build too many homes in the WUI. The 108  
acre tree farm that surrounds us on two sides was sold to a developer who plans on  
converting the tree farm into a 15 home subdivision. There was no acknowledgement  
by the county that this would increase wildfire risk to us or that those homes would  
need protection from wildfire. This legislation gives developers yet another way to  
build in the WUI.

I strongly urge the Committee to vote NO on HB 2192.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phillip Callaway  
Crawfordsville, OR