

**Gregory H Macpherson
29626 Church Drive SW
Albany, Oregon 97321**

February 21, 2023

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Representative Ken Helm
Representative Annessa Hartman
Representative Mark Owens
Representative Court Boice
Representative Mark Gamba
Representative Bobby Levy
Representative Pam Marsh
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Anna Scharf

Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 2192

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

The following testimony is provided for the public hearing on House Bill 2192 set for the Committee's hearing this afternoon.

Following several terms in the Oregon House of Representatives I served from 2009 to 2017 on the Land Conservation and Development Commission, including as Chair for the last three of those years. I am now settled on the farm in Linn County that has been in my family for four generations. In 2019 I planted a hazelnut orchard there, immersing me in a refresher course on rural living.

As someone who grew up in Oregon agriculture and has returned to it later in life, I have seen how the landscape evolves over time. Structures that served some useful purpose in the past are torn down or left to fall apart while new ones suited to current production techniques are constructed. Our family farm consists of about 330 acres today (small by Linn County standards), but had at least half a dozen dwellings at various times in the past when farming methods could not cover as much ground.

Current law provides a temporary basis for replacement of dwellings on lands zoned for exclusive farm use with significant limitations requiring substantial structural, wiring, plumbing, and sanitary systems in the structure to be replaced. HB 2192 would loosen the limitations on replacement dwellings on EFU lands and make them permanent. It would also extend those provisions to forest lands.

There is no need to expand the opportunity for more rural residences in farm country. The more dwellings that are allowed the more interference will be experienced by those of us working the

land. It is also very undesirable to expand the number of rural residences in forest lands. These areas also involve friction between rural residents and those working the land. In addition, they have an even greater risk of wildfire spreading from the additional dwellings that would be permitted.

Therefore, I urge the Committee not to move HB 2192 forward through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G. H. Macpherson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Gregory H. Macpherson

cc: Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) testimony portal