

Submitter: Christina Harrington

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2400

Dear members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2400. I am writing to urge you to vote against these this bill.

I am an Oregonian who cares deeply about the preservation of our agricultural regions and the public lands we all enjoy. I oppose measures HB 2400 as currently written as I believe it will negatively affect the agricultural, forested, and public lands that sustain our communities and provide welcome breathing space for all Oregonians. This bill disregards existing laws, especially our land use laws that encourage smart growth and the protection of agricultural and forest lands that Oregonians rely on for food, jobs, and open space. In addition, preserving our agricultural lands and forests will help sustain a diverse environment and a healthy planet.

HB 2400 would fragment Oregon's agricultural and forest lands by allowing an additional house on every rural property. It is written in a way to encourage short-term resale, with no safeguards for protecting these valuable lands that feed our communities. People who want or need an extra home on their rural property already have a variety of mechanisms to secure such a home, including seven different ways on farmland and 6 ways on forest lands. Plus, Oregon law already allows new homes for relatives of agricultural and forest land managers, and additional new homes for unrelated farmworkers.

Thank you for considering my comments. I hope you will move forward in a way that preserves our agricultural regions and protects open space.