

Submitter: Shauna McKain-Storey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB438

I live in an area surrounded by farmlands that are being increasingly encroached on by residential development, and it is sad to see prime farmland destroyed by the pollutants and disturbances introduced by construction. I have also seen housing built in highly unsuitable areas due to the lack of necessary infrastructure. My neighborhood is on Bald Peak in Yamhill and Washington Counties, and housing is being built here despite diminishing water supply and the lack of functioning fire hydrants. It is a dangerous idea to expand housing construction in forested areas which will be increasingly threatened by wildfires! This bill allowing new dwellings to be built on all lands outside UGBs where a house already exists, would greatly increase exurban sprawl with housing that is not necessary for farming or forestry. It could cause conflicts with agriculture, a vital Oregon industry, by driving up the price of farm land, pricing out new and younger farmers. The expanded construction that this bill would likely lead to would contribute to more driving and thus more climate pollution. Beyond all of this, I have read that there are already 7 different ways one can get a house on farm land and 6 ways one can get a house on forest lands that already cover any housing needs, so I question the need for this bill. Thank you