



March 25, 2013

WASHINGTON COUNTY
OREGON

The Honorable Mark Hass
Chair, Senate Committee on Education
900 Court St. NE, S-207
Salem, Oregon 97301

Senator Hass:

I urge your Committee on Education to support SB 600. I have been working closely with the neighbors in the South Cooper Mountain area for many years. I have been highly impressed with their demonstrated concern for good planning. Now that they have been annexed into the City of Beaverton, we at Washington County, along with the staff of the City of Beaverton, are working together to ensure the wisely directed growth and development for this area. An issue has arisen with the boundary line between the school districts of Beaverton and Hillsboro, which bisects this area.

As the area to be developed is next door to the Beaverton School District, it makes sense for many reasons to move the boundary so that the entire area is inside the Beaverton School District. Schools are a key identifier and community builder for many people. This area is much closer to schools in the Beaverton School District, which District is intimately tied to the City of Beaverton's identity and governance structure. Developing community happens around local schools. With all children in this new City neighborhood attending the same schools, this will be made easier.

We are all concerned as well about global warming, and the dangers of excessive and unnecessary burning of fossil fuel. Transporting children across Washington County to Hillsboro in school buses is bad policy from that standpoint. Moreover, walking and biking to nearby schools and being involved in active physical play after school makes much more sense than riding buses to distant schools.

I ask that you and your Committee pass SB 600 and help this new community thrive. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dick Schouten
Washington County Commissioner for
Aloha, Beaverton and Cooper Mountain

Bob Terry
Washington County Commissioner for
District 4

Cc: Board of Commissioners
Robert Davis
Jonathan Schlueter
Stephen Kafoury

Board of County Commissioners

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