

February 14, 2013

Dear Chairman Read,

Congratulations for being selected to chair the Transportation and Economic Development committee. I am writing you to discuss HB 2696, which I will refer to as the "Coastal Bypass." Recent develops and information presented is of great concern to me, and many others in the agricultural sector of North Marion County.

I am the 5th generation of a family farm that originated in 1852. I have a growing family with potentially the 6th generation of farmers to farm our land. We work hard to grow food, preserve nature, and enrich our community. My goals are to continue farming for years to come. The Coastal Bypass would be a tremendous setback to our operation north of St. Paul. Our farm, some of the most fertile in Marion County, would be divided by a 300-500' swath of unnecessary highway. A highway I am in opposition of. Our farm would be inaccessible to either side, with long distances to travel to access our fields. Irrigation is a valuable tool; this highway would damage or destroy our ability to irrigate our fields that produce any crop in the Willamette Valley. Our farm is not for sale nor will it be available for any developer to access for their monetary benefit.

Oregon Department of Agriculture Director Coba recently told the membership of NORPAC foods that within 20 years we will be unable to feed the world population. I ask this, "Why would we destroy our land and remove acres of production for an unnecessary bypass?" ODOT has begun construction on the bypass passed in 2009 for the Newberg-Dundee area.

In 2010 the developers of the "Coastal Bypass" were met with fierce opposition. I don't think they heard the message that this "Coastal Bypass" is not an option. The effects of private condemnation of land for private benefit, further development along said bypass would be catastrophic. Fire and Medical response would be at capacity from volunteer agencies serving these small communities affected by the bypass.

Representative Read it is vital for the future of Oregon and Oregon agriculture that you kill this bill in committee. It is your position and responsibility to see the challenges associated with this bill to ensure the success of our next generation of farmers.

Sincerely,

Daniel Mullen