

House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Capital
900 Court Street NE, Room 453,
Salem, Oregon 97301

Attn: Representative Tobias Read

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I want to go on record opposing HB2696 that would approve the state entering into an agreement with a private for profit group to “take” private property from one group of citizens and give to another. This decision has the potential to devastate private property rights. Our farm lies in the path of one of the proposed tollways. In the early 60s a proposal was floated that would have put the Portland International Airport on a diagonal through the well known French Prairie area south of St. Paul. Some very intelligent people put a stop to this notion and Marion County remains the most productive agricultural county in Oregon. Tom McCall also recognized the threat to Oregon agriculture in the 70s as he knew out of control development would cripple Oregon agriculture in the Willamette Valley; again members of our community joined the conversation and were able to save this natural resource.

Our farm was homesteaded in 1852 and currently is operated by the fourth and fifth generations, the sixth generation is beginning to take over some of the responsibilities as they grow up and learn a work ethic on our farm. I ask you to join me as a visionary and protect our farm and others like it from a poorly thought out concept that will devastate a major agricultural production area in Marion and other counties. Save our farm for generations to come by stopping this today and vote no on HB2696.

Please include this testimony as part of public record in opposition to HB2696.

Submitted by

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