

## Winkel Karen

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**From:** Rayburn Troy  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 3:15 PM  
**To:** Winkel Karen  
**Subject:** FW: Why I signed -- All of the proposed

One more for the file / public record

**From:** Angelo Spada [<mailto:mail@change.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:19 PM  
**To:** Rayburn Troy  
**Subject:** Why I signed -- All of the proposed

Dear Oregon House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development (Committee Administrator),

I just signed Friends of French Prairie's petition "[Oregon House of Representatives: Stop House Bill 2696](#)" on Change.org.

Here's why I signed:

All of the proposed routes go through land that my family owns and productively farms. We are wholeheartedly opposed to this and any other similar bypass.

Sincerely,  
Angelo Spada  
Saint Paul, Oregon

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There are now 33 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Friends of French Prairie by clicking here:  
<http://www.change.org/petitions/oregon-house-of-representatives-stop-house-bill-2696?response=91934d5d0884>



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House Transportation Committee,

I am speaking to you today to voice my opposition to House Bill 2696, or as it is more commonly known as the "Coastal Parkway Bypass".

I am a third generation Willamette Valley farmer, and my wife's family began farming in Oregon in the mid 1800's after coming across on the Oregon Trail. Her family owned and operated the Mission Mills on Champoeg Creek near Saint Paul. My family purchased that farm in the mid 1960's after being forced off of our farm in East Portland near the airport.

The reason that we were forced out of Portland was in large part due to a chain of events that started in a very similar manner to what is being proposed by this Coastal Bypass. We used to farm what are now two-four lane limited access highways, which are more commonly known as Airport Way and 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. As terrible of a blow to our operations as those highways were, ultimately what forced us to relocate were the added costs that we incurred as a result of these highways. Those added costs included higher property taxes, higher rents on leased lands, and the lost efficiencies of farming smaller plots of land. It also became more dangerous to move equipment from field to field, which because the fields were smaller became more frequent. The added traffic also dramatically increased the amount of time that it took to get from field to field.

The financial impact to my family and our business from this proposed bypass would be crushing. If we take for instance one running mile of the proposed bypass at a 300 foot wide right of way, that equates to the elimination of at least 36 acres of prime, highly productive farmland. What that would mean to our business is a loss of between \$2 and \$3 million dollars of income from one five year crop cycle. Now that is only one mile, and only one crop cycle. We have been farming in the Saint Paul area for close to 50 years or 10 crop cycles, and we have no plans to quit farming. This revenue is mostly from out-of-state trade dollars that would not flow into Oregon. These dollars help to employ approximately 150 people whose families live and shop and pay taxes in Oregon.

The Willamette Valley and its French Prairie embody the perfect combination of climate and fertile soil that is literally not found anywhere else in the world. This unique combination makes each and every acre of farmland here absolutely irreplaceable. The land that my family has already lost to development in Portland can never be recovered. Please do not add another chapter of loss and farmland destruction to my family's history. Please join us in taking a stand to preserve family farms for generation to come.

Angelo Spada  
A&R Spada Farms, LLC