
From: jsilver@rconnects.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2013 3:09 PM
To: WaysandMeans.NaturalResourcesSub@state.or.us
Subject: HB 3098 - Opposed

To the Committee Members:

OPPOSED TO HB 3098

I am writing to opposed HB 3098. This is ill conceived special interest legislation that undermines local land use planning for no useful reason other than to subvert Oregon's goals of preserving agriculture and farms lands.

In the 1980's we had a land-use disaster of the first magnitude when by means of a vast criminal conspiracy the so-called "City of Rajneeshpuram" came into being after the corrupt Wasco Co. Court granted questionable permits to developers. After the cult was forced out the developed land came into ownership of an insurance company that eventually sold to Dennis Washington who sought a wide range of land-uses at the property including industrial uses. At that point I hired Robert Liberty and we contested Wasco County in LUBA and succeeded in stopping that poor plan. Washington then donated the ranch to Young Life that claimed they want it for a "summer camp."

At the time Young Life and their land-use counsel met with several of us in Antelope that had opposed Mr. Washington's proposals to assure us they had the most modest goal and that they would never seek any expansion, most of the buildings the needed were already constructed, only Young Life members would use the facilities, etc. Further many promises were made about traffic through Antelope, public access through public roads, etc. All of these assurances and promises were ignored and violated. Then came the request in recent years for a huge expansion. We did not object to that even though it has had a negative impact in terms of traffic on our community. Now this. It is too much. A lot of people around here trust nothing that they say. This is a huge corporation operating resorts under the guise of 'youth camps.'

This is all the fruit of the largest illegal reat estate development in the history of the state-Rajneeshpuram.

Now they essentially asked for a blank check. First, this is not a "summer camp" in the terms most people think. It is a huge destination resort and while youth may be the largest segment it is certainly not exclusively for youth or for Young Life members. Young Life rents facilities to it seems whoever they want.

If the development Young Life described and envisions is allowed on these ag and farm lands, for no other reason than it suits them, the no ag and farm land will be safe in this state from rampant

resort development.

You may not be aware of the controversy regarding the proposed Cathedral Rock Wilderness at the south end of the Muddy Ranch where Young Life is in a conflict with Jefferson Co. Commissioners on public access- Young Life supports closing a long-time public road they promised they would never close when they came in here. I expect they are afraid that the Jefferson Co. Commission will enforce the laws when it comes to any expansions. Wasco Co. certainly has not asked hard questions and Young Life has had nothing but a sweet heart deal in their expansion in that county to date.

If this is enacted it is a poor excuse for public policy. Young Life came in here and vowed to follow the land-use laws. **MAKE THEM DO THAT PLEASE** and do not give them what they want simply because they claim to have good motives or this policy is being traded or swapped or bargained for.

Sincerely,

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