
From: robin@moats.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2013 5:02 PM
To: WaysandMeans.NaturalResourcesSub@state.or.us
Subject: House Bill 3098 A

To Whom It May Concern,

An hour or so ago I learned of the meeting tomorrow in regards to HB 3098 A. Due to my client commitments I will not be able to attend and am submitting my comments via email in lieu.

As a resident of Antelope, OR I am very concerned about the proposed 4,000 acre expansion of Young Life - Washington Family Ranch in our vicinity. Please keep in mind that I have no issue with the service that the camp provides to youth, in fact I laud what they do. Rather, my concern is for the impact on the small surrounding communities and other residents in the area for whom no regard seems to have been considered what so ever. We had to find out about the expansion when it was reported in the news, by which time HB 3098 was already written and before the state legislature. Both Jefferson and Wasco Counties had been previously been notified and received presentations from Young Life about the expansion. By contrast I had to request a presentation for the City of Antelope - the community which bears the brunt of almost all of the traffic the camp generates.

We were appreciative of the Young Life staff taking time out of their busy schedule to come out and address our concerns. While the lighter concerns were addressed with enthusiasm the main issue of traffic impact had to be raised by us, to which there were nodding of heads in agreement about the traffic increase but no addressing of the issue in any way.

Antelope is a very small community with seniors, children, pets, deer and no sidewalks. We have tried for years to get the speed limit lowered to no avail. As we all know a speed limit of 35 in the middle of nowhere is mostly disregarded whether it be cars, trucks, buses or semi's. Having a deputy parked here now and again for traffic control, as suggested to us by ODOT, is not feasible and will have virtually no long term impact, if any at all.

When I moved here in 2005 Washington Family Ranch was still in it's infancy and very seasonal. Over the years the camp has become more of a year round facility with the heaviest use during the summer months. Roughly calculated the proposed 1500 beds will equal something in the range of 120 additional bus trips through our community every week of the high season and I have to assume there will be additional off season activity as well. Add to that the vehicles of the parents, counselors etc. that also go to the camp you can see how the traffic increases exponentially. This is not Bend or Madras where the traffic increase won't even be noticed. Antelope is roughly 6 blocks long and the impact will be enormous in terms of noise, fumes and speed. I simply do not understand how one tax exempt entity can receive special treatment by the state legislature: "Exempts from statewide land use planning goals and provisions of acknowledged comprehensive plans and land use regulations of Jefferson County and Wasco County." This proposed exemption will significantly impact the quality of life in Antelope. Most of us here have put all we have into our homes and love the quiet country life - that is why we moved here.

It is very unfortunate that the state legislators of Oregon consider a week of fun for teens (many from out of state) to be of more importance than the quality of life of their tax paying constituents.

Sincerely,

Robin Moats
Mayor Pro Tem
Antelope, Oregon

In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our own responsibility.

~ Eleanor Roosevelt