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To: Senate Rules Committee

Re: SB 845-7

I am appearing today to support testimony you have received from 1000 Friends of Oregon, Saave Helvetia, and various other participants in Washington County Citizen Action Network.

I hope it is evident to you that the heavy pressure for this bill comes not from the people of Washington County but from a narrow but powerful group of investors and local politicians who are dazzled by their own "aspirations" to grow intemperately, mid-20th century style, without regard to the actual carrying capacities of the Tualatin Valley's air, water, and land, and without due consideration of the opportunity costs of such very "un-smart" growth..

We have some of the world's best farmland, and one of the nation's best systems for protecting it. Yet you are being urged to sacrifice both for the illusory hope of "jobs", a code word here for leaders' ambitions and the hope of quick profits. Really? Do we need to become the next Raleigh or Houston or even Bellevue, Washington? How would that benefit our own residents, the people whose lives and talents are already invested in this beautiful and productive land? How would that make our communities more sustainable?

I would draw to your attention one specific prohibition proposed in the latest version I've seen of SB 845: incentive funds could not be used to clean up a "brown field" site.

Nothing could more blatantly contradict or undermine adopted State and Regional policy proprtizing re-use and re-development of underused or vacant urban properties before sacrificing high quality, productive farmland to urbanization, industrial or otherwise. Surely you understand the centrality of this principle to any hope of attaining sustainable or "smart growth". Sprawl in the courtship of a tantalizing prospective employer is still sprawl, and it's utterly inconsistent with Oregon's best interests.

Please do not allow this bill to go forward.