

DATE: February 4, 2014

TO: Members of the House Committee on Rural Communities;

FROM: Allen Amabisca

SUBJECT: I urge a NO vote on HB 4078: A destructive bill with a dangerous precedent

Chair Clem; Members of the Committee,

House Bill 4078 is a bad concept that follows a flawed process created by our Washington County leadership.

In a misguided attempt to go around the established legal process, this bill seeks to fast track development in a destructive way that would throw out the baby with the bath water. Not only would HB 4078 harm Washington County and its world class farmland, it sets a dangerous precedent that would place Oregon's entire land use process in jeopardy.

There is a lesson to be learned here. We need county leadership that follows the intent of the Oregon Land Use law by proactively seeking out and listening to all citizen inputs, not just those of land developers. If we allow people to participate on the front end, we will generate plans that won't get tied up in lengthy appeals on the back end!

What we do not need is a legislative decree to nullify the positive and inclusive process we have established for making sound decisions at the local level.

If we want to improve the land use process at the local level we need to value citizen input and pursue strategies that both protects our open space and our high value farmlands while supporting logical and cost-effective urban growth boundary expansions. If we do this, we can achieve steady, measured UGB expansions that we can afford, while avoiding costly and time-consuming legal appeals.

I encourage a NO vote on House Bill 4078.

Thank you,

Allen Amabisca
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