

**From:** JAMES SYRING [<mailto:jamessyring1@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 9:49 PM  
**To:** Sen Roblan  
**Subject:** Unique Perspective And Support For House Bill 4029

Good Evening Senator Roblan,

My name is Jim Syring and I live in Damascus, Oregon with my family and we have 3 registered voters at our residence. I had the unique opportunity to purchase my parents property here in Damascus and have lived here for almost 53 years. I have been a lifelong resident of Damascus and have served the public for nearly 30 years and am currently employed as a Deputy Fire Chief for a Clackamas County Fire District.

I am writing today to please ask for your support of House Bill 4029. Our community saw that last week, the Oregon House of Representatives passed the bill with an unprecedented unanimous 51-0 vote and the bill now moves to the Senate. Our community and my neighborhood is ecstatic that our representatives have come to our aid.

Senator, I cant tell you enough that by standing up and supporting the citizens of Damascus, you don't even know how much this means to the people. We the people of Damascus, are used to constant threats by the Mayor, constant chaos and turmoil, and this is the first bright light many of us have seen in a very long time.

As you know, our community is in a desperate situation that is unprecedented in urban government. The House Bill 4029 comes just at the right time. It gives those property owners on the West side, who in some cases have been devastated financially, the ability for options for the first time in almost a decade. This bill is all about prosperity to our community, potential jobs and development in an area that has been starved, and finally offers some hope for our community. Its not a permanent solution but will help give immediate relief to those who have been most affected. This bill is not about tearing the city apart no matter what the Mayor will tell you.

Everyone hears about the unfortunate situation of General Distributors and Lowell Patton and their inability to build and develop in Damascus but you may not realize how it has affected other citizens and property owners on the West side as well. I am an active member of the Foster-Troge-Vogel neighborhood group and we are one of the areas that this bill would give relief to. We have approximately 50 property owners who have been meeting regularly since November and some in our group have felt desperate and in despair. Another touching and sad story is that a group of property owners who reside between Hemrick Road and Troge Road were approached by a developer several years ago who wanted to purchase as a group, almost the entire block between Hemrick Road and Troge Road to the North & South and Foster Road and the Happy Valley City border to the East and the West. Newland Communities offered them all significant options and a substantial amount of money and the group was excited for their futures. When the comp plan stalled over and over and Damascus became unbuildable, the developer backed out and all of the owners to this day, are left without anything. This is why the West side has become so passionate about our future. The West side would like options for our families futures and to get our lives back on track. Bruce Kayser (Hemrick Road), Marilyn Brundidge (Hemrick Road), Mike Watson (Troge Road), and Roger Roth (Troge Road) share the horror stories of how their lives changed because of Damascus and the city's inability to produce any planning processes. I am happy to forward you their contact information as they would all appreciate sharing their stories with you to pass on to the senate, and the hope that this bill has given our West Damascus community.

Thank you again Senator for the opportunity for input and for all that you are doing to support our state and our community.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, need further support, would like to talk with any of our neighborhood members, or need anything at all. Thank You again.

Jim Syring & Family (Evelyn Syring, James Syring, Bo Howard)

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