



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING
2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

February 18, 2014

Senator Arnie Roblan, Chair
Senate Committee on Rural Communities & Economic Development
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Roblan & Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners (BCC), I am writing to express our neutrality to HB 4029, which would provide a path for property owners who own land on the edge or boundary of the City of Damascus – and are within one-half mile of another city – to withdraw their land from the City.

The BCC is very sympathetic to the plight of landowners within Damascus' city limits, all of whom remain in limbo due to the absence of a comprehensive plan and land use regulations. Although the BCC is neutral on HB 4029, we have concerns regarding the possible implications of the bill:

- The bill could cause a boundary change to Damascus. After one property within one-half mile of another city withdraws from Damascus, the adjacent properties then become within one-half mile of the city boundary, and so on. This has the potential to impact the long-term viability of the City of Damascus.
- The County wants to ensure that property owners withdrawing from Damascus have access to the essential sewer infrastructure needed to urbanize. While it appears this would not be a concern for the properties in question, please consider these infrastructure needs during your review of this legislation.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments and thank the bill sponsors for their work on this issue. We look forward to working with them to address the concerns outlined in this letter.

Sincerely,

John Ludlow, Chair

On behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners