

Gene Whisman
From The Desk Of
Rep. Gene Whisman

February 24, 2014

From the desk of
JASON COVER



Members of the Oregon House Representatives:

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Today, you are being asked to consider House Bill 4078A, "the Land Use Grand Bargain," which legislatively approves specific components of Metro's Urban Growth Boundary and its Urban and Rural Reserves.

Last week, the Oregon Court of Appeals rejected large portions of Metro's decisions citing mistakes both by Metro and by the Land Conservation and Development Commission in approving Metro's applications.

JIM CLINTON
Mayor

The reality is that decisions of the Court of Appeals like this one cost cities, state agencies, the courts, and citizens and stakeholders many years of time and thousands if not millions of dollars. Such decisions have become increasingly common. This is the fourth decision in the past five years in which the court has reversed and or remanded a decision of LCDC for not adhering to the state's land use laws regarding planning for future growth in urban growth boundaries.

JODIE BARRAM
Mayor Pro Tem

MARK CAPELL
City Councilor

VICTOR CHUDOWSKY
City Councilor

Looking past the particulars of the Metro situation and the politics of HB 4078A, what these recent events underscore is just how difficult it's become to expand UGBs and plan for urban reserves within Oregon's land use system. The relevant statutes have been shaped by so many highly-contended legislative amendments and court decisions that at this point it's become increasingly difficult for local communities to plan for their future.

DOUG KNIGHT
City Councilor

SCOTT RAMSAY
City Councilor

The City of Bend has been involved in its own UGB expansion process for more than ten years and will most likely face additional legal challenges before receiving final approval. What we and every city in Oregon need are better, clearer laws that can help us implement Oregon's planning program in a more expeditious and effective fashion.

SALLY RUSSELL
City Councilor

ERIC KING
City Manager

Last session the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2254, an important – albeit modest – first step in providing clearer laws by which cities can expand UGBs. However you may vote today on HB 4078A, we ask that you please keep in mind that this legislation does not address ongoing issues for the rest of the state, and that once this vote is passed you turn your attention back to making improvements to Oregon's statewide planning program.

Respectfully,

DR Clinton
Jim Clinton
Mayor

Jodie D. Barram
Jodie Barram
Mayor Pro Tem

OK MC 2-28-14