

Clackamas County Farm Bureau

February 16, 2015

Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Written Testimony on SB 534

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jon Iverson and I am the president of the Clackamas County Farm Bureau. Our county farm bureau opposes SB 534, which would allow a city and an airport to enter into an agreement for the city to provide sewer and water services to the airport without going through the annexation process. We are concerned about the precedent that this bill would set by allowing the city to extend its services without annexation.

We believe there is a proper channel to follow for this expansion and this bill creates an unneeded shortcut. We have concerns that other local businesses and properties will also try to tap into the water and sewer extensions, and that this would create expanded development pressure within lands used for farming and zoned for exclusive farm use. It is my understanding that this bill is primarily designed to allow Aurora to provide services to the airport. For Aurora and the airport to expand the provision of sewer and water services, we would need to sacrifice significant land zoned for exclusive farm use, and circumvent the existing process for evaluating whether a need for annexation exists to provide these services. We have concerns that this bill will result in the loss of prime Willamette Valley farmland, and will create development pressure that directly contradicts the existing zoning.

For the above discussed reasons, we urge the committee not to pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Iverson
Clackamas County Farm Bureau President