



March 19, 2015

Hon. Brian Clem, Chair
House Rural Communities, Land Use and Water Committee
900 Court St. NE, S-207
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to HB 3211 – City of Lake Oswego

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

The City of Lake Oswego has consistently opposed urbanization of the North Stafford area, including those portions that are the subject of HB 3211. The City's Comprehensive Plan calls for maintaining the rural character of the upper Stafford basin to support sustainable agriculture and parks in close proximity to the City. The Comprehensive Plan also supports maintaining a rural buffer between future urbanized areas and the existing communities of Lake Oswego, Tualatin and West Linn to maintain the individual character of each community. Further, the need to provide urban services to this area could have profound consequences on Lake Oswego's fiscal resources and the livability of the existing urban community.

Although Lake Oswego does not support urban levels of development in the upper Stafford area, it nevertheless believes it is important to participate in discussions regarding future planning and development. HB 3211 not only circumvents the established process and designates urban reserves contrary to the City's adopted policy, it also deprives Metro, the counties, and the surrounding municipalities of the opportunity to jointly resolve the urban reserves issue in a way that makes sense for all affected jurisdictions, service providers and residents. Under the circumstances, it would not be appropriate or beneficial for the Legislature to intervene in the reserves designation process as proposed in HB 3211.

For these reasons, **the City of Lake Oswego urges you to oppose HB 3211.**

Sincerely,

Kent Studebaker
Mayor