

April 3, 2015

The Honorable Chris Edwards  
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resource Committee  
900 Court St. NE, S-411  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 716

Dear Senator Edwards and Member of the Committee:

I write to express the City of Gresham's opposition to Senate Bill 716. While Gresham does not always benefit from the regional land use process, we understand its importance, and we are concerned with measures that would weaken the wider process in order to meet the needs of specific individuals or communities, even our own.

When it comes to industrial land in the Portland Metropolitan Area, the issue is not the supply of land. In Gresham alone we have 280 acres of ready-to-go industrial land, and another 680 acres of industrial land that has been within the urban growth boundary for a decade, but desperately needs infrastructure investment. We remain hopeful for regional and state assistance in that regard, and are fully cognizant that it will also require significant local investment.

Gresham brings these infrastructure concerns to the regional conversations regarding industrial lands, and we advocate our interests in servicing existing land before flooding the region with new land. While we don't always prevail in these discussions, at least we have a venue in which to voice them, which is the intent behind Oregon's land use laws requiring cooperation. If the region were to approach a drought of ready-to-go land, as a region we could convene through the existing channels and solve that problem.

Allowing individual parcels to be designated by counties, outside of the regional process, would weaken the integrity of the system, and would decrease cooperation and the pursuit of mutual interests. Further, it would result in statue effectively picking winners and losers based not on the merits of where growth should occur, but bases on more parochial interests. Thank you for your consideration of our perspective.

Sincerely,



Eric Chambers  
Government Relations Director