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

Re: SB 716

Dear Senator Edwards and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 716. I am very concerned that this measure is targeted at bypassing the land use needs and desires of our communities and the citizens of our state that has been achieved through an effective and comprehensive Urban and Rural Reserves process. The comprehensive reserves process achieved, via citizen and community consensus, nearly 8,000 acres of designated and build ready industrial lands within the three metro counties.

SB 716 violates the trust and efforts of countless citizens and numerous local jurisdictions who worked together for years to achieve viable, sustainable, and affordable urban and rural reserves. These efforts achieved effective and efficient identification of nearly 8,000 acres of industrial lands within the metro region UGB. The Metro region has more large industrial lots than are expected to be utilized. Within Washington County, large industrial lots are being broken up because no buyers can be found for its large industrial lots.

There is no shortage of industrial lands within the Metro region. There is a shortage of funding for providing the needed transportation and infrastructure systems that are needed to service the existing nearly 8,000 acres of industrial land within the Metro UGB. Senate Bill 716 is not the answer to our region's problems as it only compounds the financial and transportation problems facing our region.

Senate Bill 716 is not the right solution. We have a viable and successful process that, when followed, utilizes the trust, cooperation, and wisdom of the citizens of Oregon. Let's keep Oregon a great place to live and work in by trusting in our unique and creative Urban and Rural Reserves process.

Sincerely yours,

Allen Amabisca

Member of the Washington County Rural Roads Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee
Member of the Washington County Rural Tourism Study Work Group
Director and Treasurer, Save Helvetia