



To: Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources

From: Russ Dondero

Chair Edwards & Members of the Committee

I speak today as a member of WC CAN, a grassroots citizen based coalition in Washington County dedicated to promoting healthy and sustainable communities, social and economic justice and open and responsive government.

I speak in opposition to **SB 716**.

As a volunteer citizen advocate, I was very attentive to the Grand Bargain process last session. I fear **SB 716** if passed will undue that historic good work and open a Pandora's box of legal challenges down the road.

There is no lack of industrial land in the Metro area as the growth of NIKE, Intel and Genentech and other global corporations located in Washington County indicates. But there is a gap in job development outside the Metro area.

Oregon suffers from a lopsided economic growth model that privileges the Metro area, especially Washington County over "the Other Oregon" including my hometown of Roseburg. We should focus on the rest of Oregon.

As others have noted SB 716 has other flaws -

- It would undermine the Oregon Court of Appeals ruling on the urban/rural reserves issue made last session that necessitated the "grand bargain";
- We don't need more ad hoc challenges to Oregon's land use planning system that creates uncertainty and potential litigation;

- We need to maintain a robust citizen involvement process as mandated by Senate Bill 100. SB 716 poses an end around strategy in violation of this important principle;

Thanks for considering my thoughts on this issue.

Respectfully,

Russ Dondero

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*"You see things; and you say, 'Why?'
But I dream things that never were; and I say, 'Why not?'
- George Bernard Shaw, "Back to Methuselah" (1921)*