

Please pass on to the committee that is hearing today, SB 716
Thanks, Greg

Dear Senator Edwards, and committee members.

I was very discouraged to hear that once again the Legislature is considering meddling in the local control and citizen input in local Landuse planning. Speaking for the constituents of my District. I have not seen a lot of interest in what is becoming an annual effort to allow folks who did not get what they want in the public arena, following the rules for regular folks, using the rules that apply state wide and the accepted system where we make these decisions, to be continually over ridden by the legislature when folks with deep pockets try to have the legislature exempt their property from the rules everyone else has to follow. If you can't make a case by following the process, do we really want to allow exceptions for 'friends and family' every session? If we are, there folks in a neighborhood north of Cornelius who might like another bite at not being added to the UGB without notice, due process, or citizen involvement as in the Grand Bargain. How shall I tell them this new system of rezoning works? Is there a certain amount of phone calls or money they need to raise? Because these are the questions I fielded last time, with the grand bargain. We do not have a shortage of industrial land in the metro area, if we did, would we have taken a piece of shovel ready certified industrial land on a Sunset highway interchange and allow it to become a 3 story golf driving range. I appreciate that Land speculators may have resource land that does not meet state rules for development, but I don't think an annual Legislative UGB giveaway is the way to do it. The folks in my district believed in a thoughtful multi-year process would give them the 50 year window to make long term investments in their property. This Bill makes those hopes a mockery, and sets a precedence for annual changes, in the '50 year' protected Ag land.

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