

Testimony of
Honorable Elizabeth Furse
To the Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources
Concerning SB 716
On April 8, 2015

There has been much talk here of value: the value of open spaces, the value of farming, the value of organized growth. Out of my unique experience I want to point out another value: the economic value of certainty. That value is very real.

Every time certainty is compromised by a proposed fix to meet the needs of certain landowners or the developer industry, we risk the economic value of that certainty. It becomes at risk.

In 1993 it was my obligation to seek funding for the West Side Max line. That year Los Angeles was seeking the same funding. Obviously Los Angeles was a larger player than Portland but I had an ace in the hole, Senate Bill 100 approved by the 1973 Oregon Legislature. I was able to assure the appropriators that we had certainty. We knew the status of all the land on the route; not just for that year but for the years to come. LA with no SB100 was at a disadvantage and Portland got the funding all the way to Hillsboro, \$650 million.

Every time the powers that be meddle with this law, citizens lose their faith in their state government and the officials whom they elected. In Helvetia, we followed the law and saved wise planning. To what avail if every year there is a new attack. The value of SB 100 is hard to quantify but it is most certainly there.

Keep Oregon true to its word. Kill SB716