

From: Brian Hines [<mailto:brianhines1@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 1:48 PM
To: Reiley Beth
Cc: Sen Courtney
Subject: Opposed to SB 748

I'm expressing my opposition to SB 748, which would weaken Oregon's successful land use system without providing concomitant benefits. The basic logic behind this bill is perplexing. It assumes that counties with high unemployment, population loss, and/or poverty rates are suffering because of this state's land use goals.

Well, if that was the case, why are so many counties thriving economically? They are subject to the same land use planning system. Changes always are occurring in a free market economy. Localities and individuals need to adapt to them, with support from government.

However, this doesn't require dismantling a highly successful land use system that has brought so many benefits to Oregon. If rural counties need help, then let's help them. But SB 748 doesn't do this. It is an attempt to weaken land use laws by putting forward flimsy arguments that weakening protections for farm and forest land somehow would create an economic boom.

Wouldn't happen. Yes, the legislature should do what it can to aid ailing rural economies. SB 748 won't do that, though. I encourage members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to kill this bill.

Sincerely,

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