

May 14, 2015

Regarding HB 2938

To: Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

Senator Lee Beyer : Chair (My Senator)

Senator Fred Girod: Vice Chair

Senator Rod Monroe

Senator Chuck Riley

Senator Chuck Thomsen

Committee Administrator: James.LaBar@State.or.us

In addition to the telephone calls placed to your offices yesterday afternoon I am submitting this request to Support HB 2938. Yes on HB 2938

I have had personal experience with forced Annexation in the 1990s in Portland at a time when I was a single parent with a teenager in a small Christian HS. I found myself divorced in 1993 with a house payment, a vehicle payment, a tuition fee, two dogs and and no other family to fall back on for financial assistance. I took no public assistance of any kind and had no intention of doing so.

I was very fortunate to have been able to refinance my modest home in SE Portland and pay for the sewer hook-up and related costs. My septic tank was in perfect condition when I was forced to fill it in and stop using it. I was forced to hook up to the city sewer and pay larger utility bills each month which I could not afford. It was almost impossible but I did it until the time I moved.

Six others families moved away soon after out of frustration at paying the extra costs. The neighborhood around me suffered greatly as one by one many of the homes became rentals instead of owner occupied. It was very sad to see the changes and not good for property values.

I currently live in Lane County with my husband of 15 years who retired and is not healthy. We are the primary caregivers for my Mother-in-Law who is suffering from Dementia. One day she may have to live in our home which may require remodeling to accommodate. If this bill does not pass, a building permit may force us into annexation. We take no financial assistance for her health or care and would not be able afford to pay for the increased taxes and fees as a result of becoming part of the city.

I am one of thousands of homeowners living in Oregon who have chosen to live outside the city because it is more affordable. There are many homes in the county owned by elder Oregonians who are living on fixed budgets. Many other of these home have been purchased by young couples who may be hoping to start families, budgets are often tight and jobs are sometimes precarious. If a remodel were to force these young families into annexation it could be the straw that breaks them financially

Thank You For Your Consideration, Marian Trope'