

From: Russ Dondero
Re: HB 4079

Allow to be on record in agreement with my good friends Linda Peters and Mary Kyle McCurdy in opposing HB 4079.

This bill is a retreat from good land use policy and also evidence of pandering to the developer and real estate lobby which has set its sights on eviscerating the urban/rural reserves system. It is also part of a larger pattern in evidence of legislative leadership being in retreat on what promised to be a productive session on affordable housing issues from Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) to renter protections.

Sadly in an election year - such a retreat is to be anticipated. But those involved behind the scenes should be ashamed. All too often a lobbyist's job is to represent one's clients, not necessarily the public interest. How true that statement is and how sad for Oregon that such sentiments seem to have won the day in Salem this session. Legislators should not behave as if they were bidders in an auction for favor but should be the trustees of the public good.

"Parliament is not a congress of ambassadors from different and hostile interests, which interests each must maintain, as an agent and advocate, against other agents and advocates, but Parliament is a deliberative assembly of one nation, with one interest, that of the whole..."

- Edmund Burke

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