

Subject: Please Vote NO on SB 1573

Dear Senator,

Before will you will come SB 1573, a very bad lobbyist sponsored attempt to negate what over 600,000 Oregonians have voted to give themselves...the right to vote on annexing territory into their municipality. The people of the great State of Oregon have ORS 195, a landmark set of laws to designed to ensure orderly development AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. SB 1573 not only cuts out citizen involvement but negates lawfully passed Charter Amendments upheld by the Oregon Supreme Court.

Voter Approval of Annexations Charter Amendments are meant to allow citizens to decide what their communities will look like and how to pay for the cost of their community. The very cornerstone of Oregon's Landmark Land Use Laws and Regulations are to encourage public participation, not deny or outlaw it as SB1573 would do. It is and should be up to the people working with their respective local governments to decide on what their communities will look like, not the Legislature, lobbyists and special interests.

Contrary to what the OHBA wants you to believe, the vast majority of annexations have been approved by the voters. The failed passage of the few that did not pass were for very good reason as seen by the only voters that matter, the ones voting on the annexation.

As the League of Oregon Cities has said in their February 19, 2016 LOC Bulletin in reference to SB 1573 "charter provisions, being fundamental to the governance of a city, should not be overridden by the Legislature." I would like to add "neither by lobbyist who have only their selfish interest at heart to cut out public participation."

The people have spoken and it is up to the Legislature to represent ALL Oregonians and uphold local control, not over ride their will and Oregon Supreme Court rulings on the legitimacy of Voter Approval of Annexations by the People.

I urge you to vote down SB1573 and any other bills in any form that would undermine the peoples right to vote on annexation.

Respectfully submitted,

Don

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