



February 22, 2017

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Representative Brian Clem, Chair
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2095

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

My name is Colin Cooper and I'm the Planning Director for the City of Hillsboro. I'm writing today to offer my strong support for HB 2095.

Last year Metro convened a Task Force of 14 regional mayors and county chairs and representatives of home builders and land conservation groups to work on a proposal to improve Metro's ability to add land into the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) for residential development in a more targeted and efficient way.

Currently, state law leaves Metro without sufficient tools to add land to the UGB for development outside of the Urban Growth Report (UGR) process, which only occurs every six years. Furthermore, when land is brought into the UGB under the UGR process, it may not occur in an area that is ready for development. This leaves cities like Hillsboro that are growing rapidly both economically and by population unable to effectively accommodate residential growth and strike a balance between needed housing and jobs.

HB 2095 is important because it will provide an additional opportunity for Metro to consider modest requests for UGB expansions into urban reserves for needed residential development. Under this measure, cities that need additional land for development can submit thoughtful development plans that account for infrastructure funding to Metro mid-way through its six year cycle.

The City of Hillsboro's jurisdictional boundary touches the UGB on its North, South, and West side. That, combined with our rapid economic and population growth makes this legislation especially important for our community.

We offer our strong support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Colin Cooper'.

Colin Cooper
Planning Director
City of Hillsboro