Senator,

I am asking you to support Senate Bill 114 or 258 with your "Yes" vote. This will repeal SB 1573, which resulted in taking away the rights of local voters to control their city charters, as well as taking away our rights of initiative and referendum.

I can report to you that when a developer came to our City of Rogue River in the early 1990s and purchased a 100-acre farm, through which a year-round, fish-bearing creek runs and is just outside the city limits in the UGB, he proposed building 450 houses, a mini-mart, RV park, laundromat, etc. The citizens of Rogue River and the outlying rural areas, where I live, decided that this was unacceptable and worked very hard for months to bring this to the attention of the voters of Rogue River. We were able to pass annexation voting rights with a huge margin, approximately 80% of voters, and we were one of the first cities in Oregon to do so. SB 1573 reversed our rights and was in direct opposition to the wishes of the voters of Rogue River.

Many people continue to work to repeal SB 1573, and now we ask you to vote "Yes" on SB 114 or SB 258, restoring the rights of residents to amend and be in control of their own city charters. As you know, the Oregon League of Cities and the Association of Oregon Counties are in support of the repeal of SB 1573.

Thank you for your attention.

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