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3 April 2017

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair, and Members of the Committee

Email: senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: SB 114 & SB 258—SUPPORT

Dear Sen. Dembrow and Members of the Committee

I worked on the successful 1976 campaign to enact the first Charter Amendment in the state to require voting on annexations. The Oregon Supreme Court validated our unique Charter Amendment. Last year, SB 1573 removed our right to vote on annexations under the guise of readying more land for affordable housing. SB 1573, however, did not tie affordable housing to annexations.

Corvallis has the Home Rule provision, which allows us the right to enact charter amendments. Our Home Rule rights have been violated with the passage of SB 1573.

I feel this was the wrong action to take. Corvallis is doing well deciding its own destiny.

We have passed more than 40 annexations since 1977 until the last data tally in 2014 and added 3,746.3 acres, including 379 acres of Health Hazards land. Only 233.42 acres have not been voted into the city. Some annexations failed then passed at a second vote, having made the annexation more efficient in land use. We think developers have overbuilt student housing and that we are lacking housing for families and seniors.

Our charter amendment has worked very well. Please let us continue to have it work for us. Please pass either SB 114 or 258.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Koenitzer