

Statement Supporting SB 258 and SB 114

To: Senate Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources
From: May G. Meredith, Philomath OR resident and homeowner
Date: April 1, 2017

My husband and I chose to live in Oregon for the second half of our lives. We selected it for its beauty, of course, but equally important, for the emphasis it places on health and quality of life. We were distressed to learn that if SB 1573 is not repealed, the State of Oregon can override the wishes and intentions of the voters, as well as ignoring a City Charter.

There are too many depressing examples of cities that have grown without concern for neighborhoods, traffic impact, environmental concerns, or taking into account what its current population wants and needs. A city that expands without serious, contemplative thought and deliberate, detailed planning for its future results in an unpleasant mess to put it mildly.

Here in Philomath a large annexation has been voted against three separate times, largely because appropriate studies were not conducted. The voters did not want to open the door to ill-considered, un-planned growth ---- and the State must not have the capacity to essentially wipe out our City Charter, ignoring the right to home rule and setting a precedent to do so in the future.

I urge you to pass SB 258 and/or SB 114 before voters across Oregon are adversely affected and their cities are at the mercy of someone else's whims. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

May G. Meredith
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