

## **Statement Supporting SB 258 and SB 114**

To: Senate Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources

From: Tina White, Philomath resident and homeowner

Date: April 2, 2017

Three years ago I moved to Oregon from Denver, Colorado seeking clean air, clean and abundant water, less noise, and less traffic. I chose to live in Philomath because it is a small town with everything I was looking for. All that could change unless the citizens of Philomath have the right to vote on proposed annexations as given to them in the city charter. Residents must be able to vote on those issues affecting their quality of life as well as their financial situations.

Three times the citizens of Philomath have voted down annexing land for a large development that would increase the population by 50%. Philomath does not have sufficient water to support many more residents than it currently has. The main street going through Philomath is now very crowded and there is no plan to upgrade it. More traffic puts people, especially children, at risk and robs people of time that could be spent with their families rather than sitting in traffic. SB 1573 would take away the right of the citizens to plan and control growth in their communities.

SB 1573 will not provide affordable housing. In Philomath there are many lots available which are not being built on as there is not demand for more housing. Providing affordable housing is a more complex problem than just forcing cities to annex land. SB 1573 benefits a few special interests and not the residents of communities whose right it is to control growth in their communities as stated in their city charters.

The Oregon Constitution prohibits the State Legislature from forcing cities to amend or repeal their charters yet SB 1573 allows the State Legislature to interfere with the home rule provided by city charters. SB 1573 must be repealed in order that voter rights be upheld.

I strongly urge you to repeal SB 1573 and pass SB 258 and SB 114 to uphold Oregon voter rights as given to them in the Oregon Constitution. Thank you for your attention.

Tina White