

April 3, 2017

TO: Senate Environment & Nat Resources Committee, Salem, Oregon
FROM: Jim Long 10730 SW 72nd Ave. Tigard, Oregon 97223

RE: Support for SB 114 and SB 258

Dear Chair and Honorable Committee members:

Please pass the above bills out of committee with a “do pass” recommendation.

When I lived in North Plains, we spent days and weeks knocking on doors of residents asking for their signatures on a petition to place voter annexation on the ballot. We were successful getting on the ballot, and citizens approved requiring annexations to have voter approval. Similarly, there are over 30 communities in Oregon that passed similar local measures.

I remember Governor Tom McCall pleading over forty years ago that citizens need to protect this thing called “Oregon”. And Goal #1 of the land use laws call for citizen involvement in every phase of the planning process. Local votes on annexations are one of the best examples of fulfilling Goal #1, because it can result in better proposals by developers.

Last year’s short February legislative session, via passage of SB 1573, took away the ability of citizens to vote on annexation, under the guise of it relating to “affordable housing”. I was shocked and saddened to learn of its passage, and sorry more citizens weren’t involved in the process.

The Oregon Legislature has two opportunities to do the right thing via considering passage of SB 114 and SB 258. Please let this process work by passing these two bills out of your committee.

Thank you for your attention to these important improvements to the future of Oregon’s land use law.

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