

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2222.

I imagine you remember the project that was executed two years ago in which the planning department in Deschutes County went to several county towns to 'explore', with the invited public, a possible change in non-resource land designation. This project took a few years (2?) and was held in many venues around the county. I went to two of those meetings, as I was living in the county at the time. One in Sisters and another in Prineville. What I heard in those meetings, and what was largely voiced from the public, was: Why should this be done when there was already a good process available if one wanted an exception to an EFU designation?

But, what I also heard, and what was discussed at the county, involved the questions asked of staff at a public meeting in Bend. Repeatedly staff was asked about the inevitable work load that such a new designation would require of staff as well as the funds required to implement each new requested designation. Staff had no real answer about how this would be managed. And, I must say, there was certainly a sense in the room that staff and the whole department would be overwhelmed by taking on case after case after case of requests for designation change. And when there is already a process in place! No one believes the county is swimming in money to implement such a new process.

So. I ask: Why hasn't the voice of the public really been listened to? Go back and look at the records of that meeting in Bend. Why not ask staff, once again, about funds and personnel, and how they would get the job done?

The answer was already figured out. No need for a new process. Many county residents sat through those meetings, made up their minds, and then later watched as staff looked a little flummoxed with such a possible overload of work. And who can blame them?

Please kill this bad Bill. Makes no sense. Undermines the voice of the people.

Sincerely,

Pamela Burry