

March,24<sup>th</sup>,2017

Subject: HB 2023 Committee Hearing Scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup>,2017

I will be unable to attend the upcoming Hearing on this bill and offer my input for Blue Mountain Alliance on the above bill. Therefore, I am requesting that the following input be entered in the record for the Committee hearing.

The purpose of the proposed bill would Change the Land Use designation of certain EFU-AVA- High value Lands that do not have current water rights . It would remove certain Goal 3 restrictions, and allow those lands to be designated for developments other than those allowed under a EFU AVA High Value designation .

These lands were designated EFU-AVA- High Value Land more than 30 years ago. It met the criteria for the present designation then, and it meets the same criteria now. Nothing has changed and the Land is still part of the Agriculture base and still plays a major role in the original intent of the designation, and that is to preserve Our Agriculture Lands for the future.

The fact that some of these lands do not have current water rights is irrelevant, as many of these designated lands over time did not have water rights, but due to changing economic factors, acquired the necessary water rights by various means and now are productive Agriculture Lands. The fact that certain designated lands do not have water rights now, does not mean that they no longer qualify for the current Land Use designation. These Agriculture Lands are for future needs and should not be removed from the EFU-AVA-High value land base.

In Summary: This is a very bad bill, and should be rejected by the Committee. We should not deplete our Agriculture Lands that have been preserved for many years through the Land Use process. This Bill is short sighted and bad Land Management. Leave the current Laws in place and allow the process to work. If a change in the Land Use designation can be demonstrated, then go through the Goal 3 exception process for that specific parcel. This process is within Local Authority ,Planning Commissions and Board of Commissioners, and that has worked quite well ,and is as it should be, Local Control! A one size fits all approach is the wrong way to go. We are adamantly opposed to this Bill. It is not in the best interest of the people of Oregon.

To make matters worse and an insult to the people of this State is Section 2 of the Bill which declares this Bill to be an "Emergency", being necessary for the immediate preservation of the "Public Peace, Health and Safety" That alone should raise real concern and red flags for the Committee as to the credibility of this Bill.

Do What's Right for the People of Oregon, Reject this Bill!

Dave Price, For Blue Mountain Alliance, Milton Freewater Oregon

