

April 11, 2017

To: Senr Exhibits  
From: Karla Callaghan  
Subject: Support for SB 186, Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources

I urge you to support SB 186, which will restore urban/rural reserves planning that Metro formed after years of careful analysis and involved community participation. HB 4078 substantially reduced the urban reserves authorized by Metro's plan, changing them to rural reserve and taking away local control for proper land use planning in the affected areas.

It was incredibly short-sighted to lockup land that is immediately adjacent to a major employment center and industrial growth area in NW Hillsboro as untouchable for 50 years, with a rural reserve designation. There is no option to create a walkable community with homes and schools in the 20-year future that could reduce traffic by being close to work, instead there can only be increased traffic as commuters have no option but to drive further, and make farming more difficult as they try to move equipment on these same roads.

My family farm is among the acres that were changed from Metro's careful future planning for urban reserve to rural reserve, in the *grand bargain* which was formed behind closed doors with limited representation by a few who pretended to represent many, that resulted in HB 4078. We are not land speculators – and I refute the letters from strangers who opine that as our purpose. We are long-time citizens that love farmland, but see and feel the pressure caused by adjacency to urban use. We see extensive housing beginning to cover the beautiful farm land across the highway to the north, dragging more traffic across a rural reserve, deeper into more rural farm lands. It makes no sense to reserve farm land adjacent to the urban lands and then build on farmland just the other side of that reserve, but that is what is happening.

New legislation is necessary to correct HB 4078, delays in making that happen will allow the unintended consequences to worsen. I support SB 186 because I want to put sensible options for growth in NW Hillsboro back into the hands of local land use planners, that can reduced sprawl into undesignated rural land. I ask that you support it as well.

Regards,

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