

April 11, 2017

TO: Chair Dembrow and Committee Members
Oregon Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

RE: SB 186, Public Hearing, April 13, 2017

Dear Chair Dembrow and Senators of the Committee:

I cannot attend the public hearing for SB 186 on April 13, but as a longtime resident of rural Washington County, I would like to add my objections to the Bill.

The Legislature corrected some local government errors through the "Grand Bargain" thus restoring some high value farmland to Rural Reserves. Although a contingent has challenged the decision, most of my rural neighbors (near, but not in the disputed Hillsboro areas) and I feel strongly that it is imperative to hold our ground, both literally and figuratively, and maintain the Rural Reserves as currently designated.

Given that all of you are members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, it is not necessary to belabor the point that once a limited natural resource like high value farmland is gone, it cannot be retrieved. In such a time of growth, however, I think it will require the resolve of many of us to protect our State's precious farmlands. Hopefully, this Senate Committee will see fit to save farmland by ending the threat of SB 186.

Thank you for your service to our State.

Sincerely,

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