

FIX THE MESS HOUSE BILL 4078 MADE BY PASSING THIS YEARS SENATE BILL 186

The ability of government to totally screw-up everything they touch never ceases to amaze me. Any question as to how I feel?

A wise acquaintance once told me "If you look at the world through a straw you can see anything you want". Viewing the world through straws is common practice for land use planners, legislators and courts. Were decisions such as the "Grand Bargain" ever made in the private sector all parties to that decision would be fired and rightly so.

There are 19 different land use goals, not just goal 3. It seems to me the other 18 goals were cast aside when north Hillsboro was designated rural reserve and portions of south Hillsboro were included in the UGB or designated UR. Some of the south Hillsboro land is irrigated which means it is more productive. It doesn't make any difference how great the soil is, a lesser soil with irrigation will be more productive. I have farmed and don't care about the court's opinion. They are wrong.

There needs to be an additional land use goal. "Use common sense in governmental decisions", a commodity that is in short supply in Salem and that should be added to the endangered species list.

The arrogance employed by the legislators and their select group of citizens when the "grand bargain" was imposed is astounding. Barring a select group of well-connected individuals none of the property owners were advised of the negotiations that would have such an impact on our lives and property values. The way this was handled reinforces why most of us feel used car salesmen are to be trusted more than government officials.

The violations of goals 12 and 13 were the most egregious.

Metro and Washington County had designated the Northwest Hillsboro land as UR. Makes sense. All of it is within a mile of either highway 26 or Evergreen. Both 4 lane thoroughfares. This land is within 2 miles of 20,000 current jobs and another 4,000 jobs when the Van Rose site and the site west of Solar World are developed.

So in their infinite wisdom the esteemed legislature decides new housing will take place south of Reedville. No good way to get from there to Intel and no good way to get to 217 or 26. That's just dumb and this represents the kind of decisions I pay for with my tax dollars.

Senate bill 186 starts to give daylight to options other than the "Grand Bargain" solution and I ask for your support.

Larry Sullivan

Hillsboro, Oregon