



April 12, 2017

Sen. Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 186

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Metro, Clackamas County and Multnomah County, we urge you to oppose legislation on local urban and rural reserve designations this session. The Portland metropolitan region is poised to complete work on the reserves this spring and does not need the Legislature to intervene. In addition, we strongly oppose state action that would overturn or make changes to local reserves designations.

Our jurisdictions are currently in the midst of proceedings to hear and act upon the technical findings required to finalize the designation of urban and rural reserves in both counties. The Metro Council held a series of hearings in March and is set to act on an urban reserves ordinance this Thursday, April 13th. Meanwhile, Clackamas County will hold the first of two public hearings this Wednesday and is scheduled to take action on the findings on May 11. Multnomah County has issued a notice to commence hearings in May.

It is our hope that, after we complete our work this spring, the Department of Land Conservation and Development will be able to consider and acknowledge our work by the end of the summer.

As representatives of the local governments responsible for designating where we will grow over the next 50 years, and what lands we will protect from development, we urge you to allow our work to proceed and oppose legislation that would substitute a state determination or make changes to local reserves designations.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jim Bernard in blue ink.

Jim Bernard
Clackamas County Chair

Handwritten signature of Tom Hughes in blue ink.

Tom Hughes
Metro Council President

Handwritten signature of Deborah Kafoury in blue ink.

Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County Chair