

April 12, 2017

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

OPPOSE SB 186

Dear Chairman Dembrow and Committee Members,

I am Larry Duyck, a farmer from North Plains, Oregon that resides in Senator Johnson's district this bill's sponsor.

The Oregon Legislature approved SB 1011 in 2007. It allowed Metro to establish what would be Rural Reserves and what would be Urban Reserves for the next 40-50 years to replace the every five-seven year process that the cities, counties and metro, as well as citizens were going through.

Washington County did not follow the process intended in the bill. At one Washington County reserve meeting Representative Clem was present and explained the intent of the bill and how the other two counties were doing their process. Washington County didn't listen or care what Representative Clem had to say. This pattern by Washington County continued even when the State of Oregon agencies made their recommendations; one was to look at natural buffers to protect farm ground. Then Washington County decided to add their own category of land not in the bill called "undesigned".

This resulted in several legal appeals which Washington County lost. Washington County was told to start over which would delay the total process and add several more years as well as more expense. The impact wasn't just to Washington County but to the total process that Metro, Clackamas and Multnomah had been working on as well. This led to Representatives Clem and Unger leading negotiations between the Counties, Cities, 1000 Friends, Home Builders, Farm Bureau, Legislators and Farmers, which became known as the Grand Bargain that session.

It was not a "grand bargain" for any of the parties involved; it was a deal based upon the negotiations. Washington County gave up things, but got land into the UGB immediately. The Farmers got some of the natural buffers that were originally proposed by the state agencies. This negotiated bargain was finalized in 2014 by the Counties, Metro, Legislature and Governor.

As a farmer when I make a deal I intend to keep it. This bill which I strongly oppose intends to undo the deal.

Sincerely,

Larry Duyck

Larry Duyck
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