

2-1-18

House Agriculture And Natural Resource Committee
Oregon Legislature

Dear Committee Members

Thank you for allowing my testimony today.

My name is Dave Vanasche and I reside at 36130 NW Wren Rd Cornelius, Oregon 97113.

My Family (Dave & Ellen Vanasche & son, Mark Vanasche) own and operate Vanasche Farm LLC, which is a 2350 acre Century (1896) Family Farm in Washington County, which grows and produces hazelnuts, proprietary grass seed, clover seed and wheat.(841 acres owned and 1509 acres leased). Senate Bill 100 and Oregon's land use plan has allowed our farm to thrive. 70% of the land we farm is not irrigated, but all of it is highvalue.

Please vote NO on HB4075.

I was here last year testifying against SB186S and now I am again testifying against HB 4075. (Same Issue)

In my humble opinion I would think this committee has more important issues to resolve, and better use of taxpayer money, than re-hearing this land use issue that was legally decided by the Oregon Court of Appeals in February of 2014 and ratified by the the Legislature through HB4078, in March of 2014.

I'm here today arguing against HB 4075 because money Is Not the most important aspect of my families life! Money is the issue here today; when high value farmland is selling for \$10,000+ per acre and urban development land is \$100,000 per acre it's very tempting for people to want their land in a urban reserve. Today you will hear proponents of this bill tell you it's no longer feasible to farm this 1700 acre area because it's too close to the existing urban area and there is too much traffic. Someone's farm will always be on the edge of an urban area and regarding traffic, my farm probably has more urban cut-thru traffic than this 1700 acre area. If they can't find anyone to farm their land, call my family and we will rent and farm it for them!

Approving HB 4075 will give a free ticket to other property owners and cities to ask for more urban reserves.

My family is blessed to own 841 acres of rural reserve high value farmland which is within 3 miles of an urban reserve boundary including farmland in the Helvetia area. Because of my lifetime agricultural interest in conservation of natural resource lands, I was appointed and served 5 years on the Metro Urban- Rural Reserves policy, rules and guide-line committee and the Washington County Coordinating Committee. On the coordinating committee there were 15 urban (cities and county representatives) and 2

rural farmland representatives with one vote.(We asked for 15 rural representatives to deaf ears!) Every time we voted on high value farmland which legally should have been identified as rural reserve, the vote was 15 to 1, with agriculture losing. Such was the case with this 1700 acres included in HB 4075, land north of Cornelius and Forest Grove, North Plains, Banks and other areas in Washington County.

Washington County did not follow the law when it designated reserves and illegally created some urban reserves. I was part of the appeal and I participated in and agreed to the 'Grand Bargain', along with Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Cornelius, other cities and Washington County.To re-open this issue through the Legislature is disgusting and a breach of trust to the citizens, volunteers and government members of countless committees, who spent 1000's of hours involved in the 'Big Look', 50 year Urban- Rural Reserve process.

The world isn't making any more land. There is good reason to create a 50 year rural reserve in Washington County. (It should be 200 years). It gives farmers the ability to plan for the long-term viability of their farms. Washington County agriculture (farms and forest) is a carbon- sequestering, sustainable natural resource and an Economic Engine of Oregon.

Washington County's rural reserves land and it's infrastructure, including equipment, chemical and fertilizer dealerships, food processors, fabrication and repair facilities, hardware and irrigation suppliers, have created an "Agricultural Business Hub" for NW Oregon and SW Washington farmers. Vanasche Farm's grass seed (1500) acres is cleaned, bagged, tested and stored for shipment to all parts of the world, at Vanderzanden Farms, which is located in the present Rural Reserve, which HB 4075 would redesignate to Urban Reserve. There are 2 commercial farmer owned seed cleaners in this Rural Reserve, which many farmers from Washington County and other counties are dependent upon. Designating this area Urban Reserve will jeopardize the "Critical Mass" of agricultural infrastructure and farmland in Washington County.

Natural Resource producers from North Yamhill, Tillamook, Clatsop, Columbia and Multnomah Counties and SW Washington, use and are dependent on the agricultural infrastructure in Washington County. We must insure, protect, maintain and enhance our Rural Reserve Land mass, in order to sustain agriculture's vital infrastructure in Washington County.

Washington County (Tualatin Valley) and the Willamette Valley is an agricultural " Garden of Eden"; with an inter-coastal moderate climate on the 45th parallel, deep soils (Missoula flood deposited the best soils in Washington County and the northern Willamette Valley) and 37 inches of rainfall per year. This agricultural valley is the envy of the world. The region is the proprietary grass and clover seed production capital of the world with a moderate climate and 2 dry summer months for harvest. Oregon State University is directly involved in many aspects of crop research and production. We are blessed to be able to farm in a region free of severe weather events.

The hazelnut industry is booming, multiplying from 30,000 acres to 80,000 acres in less than 10 years. This valley has the ability to grow 200 different crops and it's ability to change crops has allowed it to weather economic downturns while other areas of the world have greatly suffered.

In summary; I am a farmer, an environmentalist, a conservationist and a Christian. My family's life's goal is to leave this natural resource land in it's best sustainable condition, not bury it with asphalt and concrete in the name of economic development and progress! Agriculture (food and fiber) is a basic life sustaining industry, which humanity can't survive without. We can't move Washington County's soil and climate to another region of the world. Washington County's agriculture needs to continue to produce food, fiber and livability, for present and future generations of Oregonians.

Please recognize agriculture as a necessary renewable resource and respect the Oregon Court of Appeals legal decision on Urban- Reserves in Washington County and the life sustaining and livability effects of SB 100.

Vote NO on HB 4075.

Thank you for allowing this testimony.

Dave Vanasche

Vanasche Family Farm