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Opposition to H.B. 4075: Low Citizen Participation

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agricultural and Natural Resources

I urge your NO vote on H.B. 4075. Many things are wrong with this bill. Here I want to discuss the **lack of citizen involvement** process leading to H.B. 4075. As you know, had this been a local land use proposal, Goal One citizen involvement would have been a requirement. The development of H.B. 4075 lacks a minimum of citizen involvement.

The City of Hillsboro

I learned by surprise at a small (maybe 25 attendees) town hall hosted by Rep. Sollman that the City of Hillsboro had become a sponsor of this bill. I had not heard about this from any city newsletter, not the Hillsboro 2035 Plan, not the Jackson School Road widening open houses hosted by the city, not through the local newspaper, and not from the mayor's recent State of the City speech.

I asked the city Planning Director when the city council had voted to support H.B. 4075: he told me on 1/2/18. I asked how citizens had been notified? He indicated that this was on the work session agenda on the city website, posted during the middle of the holidays. I asked what the citizen involvement was, specifically? He said: "the council members were elected by voters, they (council members) voted for this (sponsorship of HB 4075), thus citizens had been represented. The holidays are less than ideal for citizen involvement, at best. This explanation of citizen involvement is the most meager.

Since that time, the Mayor delivered his "state of the city" address on January 30, 2018. As reported in the Hillsboro Tribune, most of the address spoke to diversity and "sanctuary city" status, and community tolerance. No

reference was made to the city wanting to annex 1700 acres of farmland for an industrial sanctuary.

I re-read the recent city “City Views” newsletter: no reference.

I reviewed the notes of the 1/2/18 City Council work-session. H.B. 4075 had not been numbered at the time, but there was scant attention to even describing the specifics of the bill. There is only one sentence that relates as follows:

“Councilor Van Beveren asked about the likelihood of North Hillsboro being dedicated as urban reserves. Mr. Smith said the effort is to go back to the regional table to ask for re-designation of the rural reserves, not an urban growth boundary expansion.”

I reviewed the audio file. Within this archive, staff explain how the acreage was designated urban reserve, then it was “taken away” from them. This is the same logic used by the NW Hillsboro Alliance. First it was in their possession, then it was stolen.

On 2/1/18 and at a joint Town Hall hosted by Senator Riley and Reps. McLain and Sollman, a large audience was present, for and against the 1700-acre proposal. The large attendance was because proponents and opponents had activated their bases, not because the city or county stimulated citizen participation. The Mayor and a city councilor were present. During the back and forth, neither spoke up to indicate that the city was a sponsor of the legislation or why.

During the fall of 2017, I attended several city open houses focused on plans to widen Jackson School Road. I reviewed concept plans and observed maps. Never was there any reference to the city’s hopes/plans to add 1700 acres of industrial land due north of this area residential neighborhood. Many neighbors along the road were already concerned about traffic and livability impacts. A 1700 acre industrial sanctuary due north would certainly have added impacts.: traffic; toxic emissions.

I point this out in that it shows the glaring departure from local land use processes where Metro studies occur, the county hosts open houses, citizen input is solicited, and hearings with testimony are undertaken, then there is Metro review. With standing, citizens then have rights of appeal.

The City of Hillsboro has not engaged its residents in a process of communication about this acreage. They support a bill that departs from Oregon land use processes in so many ways. They base their support on their mistaken interpretation of the State Court of Appeals ruling and H.B. 4078.

The City wants you to overturn the Oregon State Court of Appeals ruling!

Oppose H.B. 4075

When you add up this repeated lack of citizen involvement by the City of Hillsboro, it is scant indeed. If this were anything akin to a local land use initiative, it would not be out of the gate, much less be at your door.

The Reserves bill (S.B. 1011) built upon S.B. 100 (Oregon land use legislation) and H.B. 4078 (Grand Bargain of 2014) never removed Goal One from Oregon's land use laws. Now comes a bill (H.B. 4075) that lacks any Goal One foundation. It should be opposed solely on this basis.

Respectfully,

Robert Bailey

Washington County Harold Haynes Citizen Involvement Award Recipient of 2007