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**From:** Spencer Gates <spencergatesfarms@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:02 AM  
**To:** HAGNR Exhibits  
**Subject:** We Oppose HB 4075

Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agricultural and Natural Resources

**RE: Opposition to HB 4075**

I am a 4th generation farmer and farm three century farms in the Hillsboro area. Two of the century farms are my family's farms. I am also a great-great grandson of Oregon pioneer Joe Meek. As you can, see my family has been in Washington County a very long time. The 1,700 acres that the City of Hillsboro wants to convert from rural reserves to urban reserves would directly impact us as our family's century farms are located on opposite ends of the 1,700 acres and driving equipment and daily business commutes would be severely impacted if we have to drive through a 1,700 acre development. This is already a busy area and we are concerned with the increase in traffic from the South Hillsboro development of 1,400 acres which has plans to house 20,000 residents.

We testified in 2013 and 2014 when the 2050 growth plan was being formed. Washington County did not follow the rules, was sued and then a "Grand Bargain" was created. We thought we were done with Washington County not following the rules, not involving citizens. Now, only 4 years later, the City of Hillsboro and Washington County wants to develop land in the Rural Reserve. Why can't they stick to the original agreement? This seems like they still think the rules don't apply to them. Plans were made 4 years ago for the planning and development of this area. There is still developable land within the urban reserves in the "Grand Bargain." Just because it seems easy to develop near the highway on flat ground, doesn't make it right. The land in question is high value

farmland that cannot be replaced. If this land is taken out of production, it would further erode the agricultural infrastructure in this area.

For these reasons, we are opposed to HB 4075

Sincerely,

Spencer and Pam Gates  
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