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From: Linda de Boer <deboer503@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 10:27 AM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Cc: Kentnesse Laura
Subject: HB 4075 opposition, Feb 8 House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Hearing

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Letter in opposition to HB 4075 for February 8, 2018, Committee Hearing

To Chair Clem, Vice-Chair McLain, Vice-Chair Sprenger and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

On February 1, Representative Janeen Sollman, Representative Susan McLain and Senator Chuck Riley held a Town Hall meeting which was well-attended, particularly by those interested in SB 4075. One opinion seemed to be shared among the legislators and many of my fellow community members on both sides of this Hillsboro land use issue: it was unfortunate that the legislature needed to be involved in local land use decisions which have a prescribed local process.

While listening to the opinions, it seemed important to me that we return to the origin of legislative involvement in the Urban/Rural Reserves designation of the 1700 acres in question in this bill. The proposal of adding Washington County acreage to Urban Reserves was determined through misinformation from Washington County, according to the State Court of Appeals. Those citizens (such as the advocacy group, Save Helvetia) who challenged the Urban Reserves proposal, did not seek to avoid the local process, but had been heavily involved in presenting the importance of conserving valuable agricultural land. And still, the psuedo factors were used for decision making. The Legislature was aware of the improper nature of the proposed Urban Reserve designations, and chose to not allow those mistakes to prevail.

Although we all seem to prefer local choice, this is a case where local procedure failed. The intent of the Legislature was a one-time fix. To help ensure that legislative involvement would not continue to be necessary, consensus for the Grand Bargain was sought from various elected officials. The intent of the 2014 Legislature should now be honored.

Thank you for the work that you do to resolve these complex issues in the best interest of our State.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda de Boer
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