

Hamre Jaime

From: Saunders Ellen <Ellen_L_Saunders@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 3:40 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Cc: Saunders Ellen
Subject: HB 4075

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To: House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee

From:

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I am asking that my testimony in opposition to HB 4075 be submitted to the record.

The urban/rural reserve process has been contentious for many yeas but there was an agreement in 2014 to resolve the issue. That resolution came about after much complicated negotiation that was to put into rural reserve the 1,700 acres now in question by HB 4075. Our farmland is some of the most valuable anywhere in the country. The soil is very rich and makes up the breadbasket of Washington County. To diminish the acreage devastates the useful acreage left because farming does not exist in a vacuum. The support system of agricultural suppliers, rural road management for tractors, and the low impact traffic is essential to continue a vibrant farm community. Oregon has now become a place where small organic farms supply a large portion of the farmers markets and the local economic boom of specialty restaurants.

Hillsboro has already taken farmland it needs for the economic development. Thousands of acres are in the UGB still undeveloped. The quality of life that draws people to the area will diminish if all the rural reserve land is taken for toxic high technology industries. Our area is already suffering from the high water use and air pollution used by these companies not to mention the serious imploding traffic congestion. Where is the water going to come from for more development? Not from Haig Lake!

If HB 4075 becomes law it will undermine the Oregon's land use laws and deprive citizens of the ability to review and appeal bad decisions. This would set a dangerous precedent that would indicate that no legally established land use law has any validity. Please vote NO on HB 4075 and protect our land use laws. It is only a few greedy developers who will profit from HB 4075 but our culture of fine wine and organic food that has become the envy of many big cities will be forfeited.

Thank you for protecting our health and livability.

Respectfully,

Ellen Saunders

