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From Norman Ralston Property Owner in Northwest Hillsboro

Assume for a moment that we no longer allow any additional land to become Urban for the next 50 years or longer. Washington County is growing at a rate of 33 people per day and if continued at those numbers would in 50 years be 602000 additional people. Imagine now that Washington County has double the population and no additional growth areas were allowed. Mass congestion and housing cost that even middle income people could not afford, and congestion, lines, crowded schools, etc. Imagine. And yet that is the way that several people would have it. Many are the "Not in my backyard crowd" and others consist of a few farmers who see competition from other farmers who would now bid for other available farming. The possible loss of Northwest Hillsboro to the production and grass and clover does not threaten the loss of food supply to the community. However, the loss of Northwest Hillsboro to be able to plan the eventual and ongoing growth of the community, does indeed threaten the people with increased housing costs, additional traffic congestion, and pushing growth onto more valuable farmland. Metro and the Tri-County governments co-operatively in Ordinance 11-1255, recommended a growth in Urban areas that would only result in the loss of 4 percent of farmland base OVER FIFTY YEARS. That's 4 percent to accommodate more than a doubling of the population in WC. And this 4 percent is shared amongst all three counties not just WC.

HB 4075 is mandatory when considering and weighing the benefits of both sides of the argument. It is inevitable that it will be soon be needed to prevent additional congestion that is promised without it. If it becomes an Urban Reserve now, it would still grow grass and clover over the years but allow Hillsboro to efficiently bring it to the best use of the citizenry.

Support 4075

Norman Ralston
Northwest Hillsbor Property Owner