

## Hamre Jaime

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**From:** Jay Melican <jaym@id.iit.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:24 PM  
**To:** HAGNR Exhibits  
**Subject:** re: HB 4075

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07 February, 2018

Re: HB 4075

Dear Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee,

I am writing as a resident of rural Washington County (Hillsboro) in OPPOSITION to HB 4075, "Relating to the land use designation for certain real property located in Washington County; declaring an emergency."

Challenges to the boundaries drawn as a result of the long and involved processes leading up to the 2014 designation of Washington County's urban/rural reserves should not be resolved through legislative action. Residents clearly have strong feelings about how to accommodate the County's inevitable growth while preserving the natural resources that make the region one of Oregon's unique and productive treasures. While the final boundary lines may not be perfect, the reserves process leading to the 2014 maps was appropriately structured to include detailed analysis by local and regional authorities and, most importantly, to include citizen participation.

At a town hall meeting in Hillsboro on February 1, Representative Susan McLain made a very good point in recognizing that, even based on the most aggressive growth projections for the Hillsboro area, the removal of a proposed 1700 acres from rural reserves at this time in no way constitutes an emergency.

The complex economic, environmental, and personal issues associated with rural lands use are not well addressed through public testimony — which quickly becomes about personal interests and even more quickly becomes acrimonious. Given the fact that there will always be a boundary line between urban and rural reserves, there will always be individuals whose property abuts that boundary. I believe there can be smart, deliberative decisions made about land use that can accommodate growth AND address the challenges faced by impacted property owners (without simply passing the problem on to their next nearest neighbors as a boundary line is moved). But the process for making those decisions will not be accomplished through HB 4075.

Washington County has time to make smart land use and growth decisions using processes that respect local concerns and consider a range of citizen interests. Let's be smart about it.

Thank you for your service and for your consideration.

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