

Rev. Tracie Bullis
318 NW Malia Lane
Hillsboro, OR 97124

April 11, 2017

Senate Environment and Natural Resource Committee
Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair

Dear Senator Dembrow and honorable Committee Members,

My name is Tracie Bullis and I reside at 318 NW Malia Lane in Hillsboro, Oregon. Thank you for considering my testimony today.

In my vocation as the Pastor of the Tualatin Plains Presbyterian Church, known locally as the historical Old Scotch Church, I have a strong interest in the land under question in SB 186. Our church property is connected to the west of the property in question, along McKay Creek.

Although our church elders are not traditionally eager to draw a political line on behalf of the breadth of our congregation, I have been invited to speak to the concerns over making changes to the current rural land designation. I am opposed to changing this land block from rural to urban land.

First, as a rural, vibrant, 170-member destination church, I am consistently reminded of the rich soils of our high-value farmland. We are a congregation full of members who honor the gift of the land around us. Regardless of the careless policies of other rural townships for their use of land, we count on our elected leaders to shepherd the attentive planning at the county and state levels to preserve this priceless resource.

In addition, I have concerns that this land use issue has resurfaced after only having been settled a few years ago. The complexity and trade-offs of the area now questioned by the Northwest Hillsboro Alliance have already been studied and decided, and I find no compelling argument in their materials to reopen the question. I would hope that our limited state and county budget would not be repeatedly wasted on revisiting previous decisions carefully made.

If more growth is expected in the northwest Hillsboro area, I would request that our elected leadership build on the careful planning and land use designation that has already been completed to balance that growth with the national and global need for farmland. This area provides some of the richest soil and best growing conditions in the world which need to be carefully managed, especially against the pressures of individual profit.

Sincerely,