

February 8, 2018
RE: HB 4075

TO: Oregon House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

We live just east of the 337-acre annexation of irrigated farm land by City of Cornelius. We are in a narrow band of heavily farmed land between Hillsboro and Cornelius. Some of Washington County's best farmers live and farm here.

I am writing from under the bus where we were thrown in the "Grand Bargain." Once again, City of Hillsboro and Washington County are cheating other Oregon communities by trying to declare another 1,700 acres of prime farm land "urban reserves" in HB4075. This is after already getting 2,000 acres in the so-called Grand Bargain in 2014 and another 1,000 acres in their phony "blighted land" urban renewal scam.

Why should Washington County and its minions be able to change the designation of land without going through normal land-use procedures? They have been chastised by the Court of Appeals for their lame land-use game. They have provided no evidence that there is a need for this land. There has been no inventory of available existing land provided to the public. There has been no answer to the question of where the water will come from to support all this development. There have been no community hearings to give citizens a chance to tell the people who represent us what we want and how we want our communities to look and grow.

Taking nearly 5,000 acres out of agricultural production in Washington County seriously hampers the remaining farmers. What about food security? Do we really want our kids and grandkids to have to eat food grown in China?

Please do not support this unlawful land grab by a city that does not play fair. NO on HB 4075! Thank you.



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