

Hamre Jaime

From: Kathleen Orrick <k.orrick1@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 9:37 AM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: Testimony on HB 4075

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Good Morning,

I the for HB 4075 is in process as I write to you, however it is my hope that you will read this and consider my input.

In 2002 my husband and I purchased a home in Helvetia, we researched the land use laws and carefully selected this location because of those laws. We purchased with confidence that the properties surrounding us were in support of the lifestyle we sought, EFU and Forest land use. As we became a part of the Helvetia community, we realized that this land used would be challenged by those seeking to see our beautiful area turned into "Anywhere America", filled with homes that look exactly the same, and strip malls that look like any other place. What is lost is our ability to farm, product, export and support a history of farming that has been so rich in Washington County.

My husband & I have spoken at Washington County Land use hearings where adjacent neighbors submitted proposals to turn 28 acres into 5 acre parcels, under the guise that this land could not be farmed. In our testimony we researched the soil quality, history of farming use and potential farm use. Those 28 acres could support tremendous production of either produce or livestock, the owner was seeking a quick profit, they had not sought the life style we carefully selected for our family. They did not and continue to stay outside what is so amazing about our areas, that thing that is being list by rapid growth that thing we call community.

On our small parcel of 3 acres, we produce eggs, raise goats for their fiber and bees for honey and to support the pollination of our surrounding area, it is not big farming, but it provides a small income, a lifestyle that cannot be replicated and a community of likeminded people.

Once a decision is made to turn our prime farming land over for development, this can never be undone. Prime non irrigation soil will be lost forever.

Please do all possible to protect the 1700 acres up for rezoning and be a good steward of our land and resources.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Orrick, MN, BSN, RN