

Dear Chair McLain and members of the House Transportation Policy Committee,

As an Oregonian who is proud of the hard work done by the Oregon Legislature more than 40 years ago, in laying out the legal structure for preserving our valuable farm lands from over-eager developers, I am writing to implore you to NOT pass this special-interest bill on to the Senate.

Our current laws provide for a transparent process for potential developers to follow, in their quest to change existing property use designations. This bill does not make a convincing argument for bypassing the required process. They claim it will "save time and money", but there has been no convincing argument as to the need for this accommodation.

I live in Charbonneau, near the Aurora Airport, so I see and hear aircraft arriving and leaving the airport frequently. I actually enjoy watching this air traffic and do not find it at all disruptive to my life. As a former Canby Planning Commissioner, I am in favor, in a general sense, of growth and economic development. However, I believe the playing field needs to be equitable, meaning that everyone plays by the same rules. If the Legislature gives in to these special-interest applicants, what's to stop the next wave of developers? Approval of this bill would actually set a precedent that would be very difficult to deny to future developers who want to circumvent the existing requirements for citizen involvement. We will have created a situation where development is determined by the elected officials who are serving in the Legislature, rather than by State Land Use Laws and the testimony of concerned citizens, which is proscribed by law.

The proponents of this bill should be told that they need to follow the steps outlined in our existing land use laws, if they want to move ahead with their plans.

PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD THIS BILL TO THE SENATE!

Jan Milne
Charbonneau