

Aurora Butteville Barlow Community Planning Organization - Letter against inclusion of Wilsonville in SB 4

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners has proposed Wilsonville to be considered for siting a semiconductor plant – specifically in the area south of the Willamette River, also known as French Prairie. We understand that the City of Wilsonville has provided testimony that they do not want to be included for consideration and we support their withdrawal.

In a public meeting commissioner Martha Schrader once said that she did not understand about French Prairie. She and the other commissioners apparently aren't aware that after Hector Macpherson saw Charbonneau under development on the south side of the Willamette River, he and Tom McCall teamed up to develop and pass Senate Bill 100 – the foundation for Oregon's land use regulations. That bill has been critical in limiting urban sprawl and preservation of farmland for Oregon's future generations.

The commissioners also don't understand Senate Bill 1011, that created Urban Reserves to protect Foundation Farmland. The lands south of the Willamette River are foundation farmland, the richest and most productive lands in the United States. A significant part of Clackamas County's economy remains agriculture, but the County Commissioners don't appear to value that.

Chair Smith once listed the following attributes for the lands south of the Willamette River, (the parenthetical portions are comments by the writer).

- 1) There are two feeder roads, Miley Road and Butteville Road, (Miley Road is 1½ miles long and is the principal access for Charbonneau; Butteville Road runs through Exclusive Farm Use properties on its way to Butteville and Champoeg Park).
- 2) There is a railroad nearby and a spur could be brought to the property, (the railroad is close, but on the other side of I-5).
- 3) It is near the freeway, (that is correct, it is adjacent to I-5 at the Boone Bridge; but with no local population base, development would increase the traffic on Boone Bridge, which is at capacity and is the principal choke point of I-5 in Oregon).
- 4) Wilsonville could supply urban services under the Boone Bridge, (Wilsonville has done decades of urban planning and has no interest in supplying urban services south of the Willamette River, while ODOT has said several times that it will not allow any enlargement of services under the bridge).

The Clackamas County Commissioners see bags of money in Salem available to those who would sell-out Oregon's rich heritage of protecting its environment and preserving farmland. In this area, they are focused on property belonging to land speculators who have been generous political contributors. But this is not just one piece of land. If urban services are brought south of the Willamette River, the corridor from Wilsonville to Salem will resemble Seattle-Tacoma. You can see the legacy of Hector Macpherson and Tom MaCall as you cross the Boone Bridge and enter the Willamette Valley. It is hard to believe this legislature, or this governor want visions of Seattle-Tacoma to be their legacy.

We urge you to exclude Wilsonville and the lands south of the Willamette River in French Prairie from consideration for development.

Respectfully,

Ken Ivey, Chair
Aurora Butteville Barlow Community Planning Organization