



Save Helvetia  
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[www.SaveHelvetia.org](http://www.SaveHelvetia.org)

March 19, 2023

## **OPPOSITION to S.B. 1051**

Honorable Members of Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

### **WHO WE ARE**

Save Helvetia is a private, non-profit advocacy organization that has been working for the past decade to protect farm and forestlands in Washington County. Many of our Board members have been active in related efforts for many years prior to our formal organization in 2010 during our Urban and Rural Reserves planning process. Our success as a partner in litigation, when Washington County wrongly evaluated their reserve lands, was a key factor that led to the passage of 2014 H.B. 4078, the Grand Bargain. Save Helvetia continues to be an active stakeholder in assuring that our urban and rural reserves function appropriately.

### **WHY WE OPPOSE S.B. 1051**

- Cities provide planning for urban expansions, with citizen involvement. This allows orderly development of infrastructure and financing through time. This level of certainty is necessary for orderly growth. S.B. 1051 gives a willing seller planning authority over the city, citizens, and circumstances, creating chaos to that planning process.
- S.B. 1051 sets out a short timeframe for establishing infrastructure, but what about things like economic downturns, Covid, wildfire, and other distractors?
- A current bill that just passed through the House with large bipartisan support is H.B. 2001. It provides avenues for cities to identify urban reserves for expansion.

- There is no showing that the current system is not working. S.B. 1051 could force cities to refocus on new seller (developer) demands, regardless of “need” and become unable to focus on urban planned design.
- Citizen participation in the planning process would be harmed as willing sellers (developers) alone would dominate.
- During the reserves planning process, **CERTAINTY** for farmers and developers was the marketing point. S.B. 1051 detracts from that certainty.
- For the Urban and Rural Reserves process to remain functional, it is essential that its authors (the legislature) remain true to the long term process.
- H.B. 2001, which just passed through the House with strong bipartisan support, is a better solution. It provides supports for cities working to identify urban reserves for expansion.

Respectfully,

**Robert Bailey**

Officer, Board of Directors

Save Helvetia

2007 Recipient, Harold M. Haynes Citizen Involvement Award, Washington County, OR

