

March 4, 2024

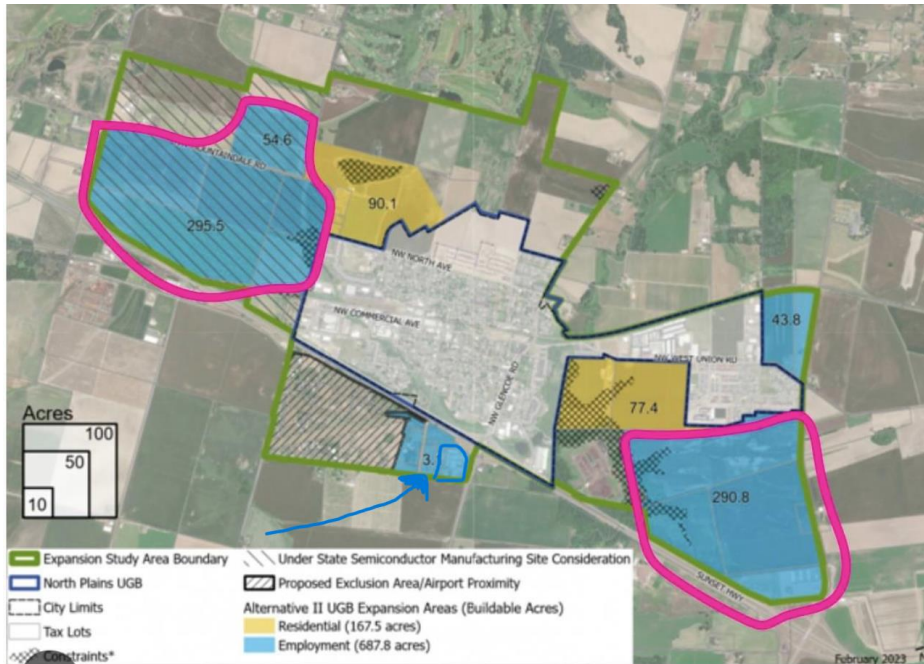
To Whom It May Concern-

I am writing with an urgent legislative action alert since [HB 4026A](#) was just referred to the Senate Rules Committee for a hearing and possible work session (aka committee vote) **tomorrow, Tuesday, March 5, at 3pm.**

I have had the great opportunity to live in the rural part of Hillsboro for almost 20 years. There have been some slow developments nearby throughout my time here, I have seen expansion but it's been slow. See that blue arrow in the picture below? That's my road, I currently have 7 neighbors, and only 2 that knew North Plains were looking at our property to pull into the UGB. Some still have no idea what's happening. Part of the reason was the lack of effort of the city of North Plains to properly notify us. I found out through social media and then 6 months later the county got involved to make sure they did properly notify us. They DID NOT properly notify us of the potential expansion.

If you look at this map, it doesn't make sense why they would want to cross the highway. We are all on well and septic. There are no major utilities and would cost a lot to develop. If you study more you will see a large area excluded from the expansion due to a small airport. But ironically not all the houses excluded are on the airstrip, and they too are excluded. Why not our street?? Seem odd that some neighbors will remain in Hillsboro, yet end of the street in Cornelius, and now we can potentially be North Plains....How confusing! Some say because they have great attorneys. I'm starting to think that's the case. We currently back up to a seed mill, which also ironically closed around the same time the UGB map came out. I drew a small blue box around it, the rest are residents. Jewett Cameron Seed Mill is a large parcel that is zoned industrial which is the reason North Plains is interested.

North Plains is making decisions without listening to the people. I thought the government is supposed to work for the people. We have no voice, no control? The expansion is too big. Hi-Tec doesn't belong out in farmland. The people know expansion needs to happen but this is not carefully thought out. 10% of North Plains voters signed a petition in less than 30 days. That means a lot! But who's listening??



1. **The bill is probably unconstitutional.** This bill restricts the constitutional right to call a referendum. The state can only do that through a constitutional amendment, and not a statute.
2. **The process has been undemocratic.**
3. **The bill is retroactive to stop a measure that's already on the May ballot.** Ten percent of North Plains voting residents signed a petition to get a referendum on their ballot. This bill would retroactively invalidate the legally exercised will of the people.
4. **Referenda are hard to bring and rare, but important to be able to use for bad cases.** It's extremely difficult to get 10% of registered voters' signatures in 30 days, and referenda will only be used for the worst cases. In North Plains, there was limited public and it would be the biggest UGB expansion by percentage in the state's history.
5. **Referenda are not a threat to housing strategies inside UGBs,**

Darcey Schlottmann