

3/5/24

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp and Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

My name is Jacque Duyck Jones.

I was raised in North Plains, literally one field over from the west subarea of the North Plains UGB Proposal where today I am still a steward of the land and raise high quality fescue grass seed.

I live in Roy on our century family farm raising Kotata blackberries, blueberries and other grass seed varieties. With good working weather today, am sorry for not being there in person. Thank you for your time and consideration of my virtual testimony.

When I am not farming, I am volunteering. I participate to the extent I can afford with time and energy. I help, support and include diverse audiences to bridge perspectives, understandings and experiences. To me, this looks like having hard conversations, reflecting and evaluating facts, testifying and this past year being a member and supporter of Friends of North Plains Smart Growth.

Usually I'm advocating for promoting Oregon commodities, for protecting our finite resources such as Oregon's priceless soils for agriculture production, teaching students about where their food comes from, etc. I have never testified before on the topic of constitutional rights!

Please consider how you would feel if you were using a democratic method, as a last resort to have a voice and it being completely erased?

This is a fast and furious short session and I hope you all agree this short session like past short sessions has numerous bills for consideration that are inappropriately put forward during these 35 days with topics that have NOT been fully vetted and bills that have nothing to do with actual emergencies or for the interest and planning for state budgeting and revenue.

This bill originally "to study how to improve voter access in this state" suspiciously shifting to "limits the review of certain local government proposals to modify the local government's urban growth boundary..." is the OPPOSITE of Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 1.

At the minimum, I am asking you to take OUT the retroactivity component of this bill!

Is this simply a targeted land use bill fueled by fear or is it to simply take away a method of direct democracy?

If this is a ban on citizen rights, please just amend it to take out retroactivity or work a bill next session that has been vetted for NO referendums at all not just to stop this first time ever used of this method regarding a specific land use ordinance.

If it is a land use bill, under Goal 1, governmental agencies are asked to:

- ◆ Provide for widespread public involvement in all phases of the planning process,
- ◆ Provide for two-way communication between members of the public and decision makers as plans are prepared, assuring that responses to public inquiries and input are provided;
- ◆ Make technical information available and understandable.

Have you ever been called an outsider or meddler? Told or made to feel that your opinion does not matter? How many times have you heard your constituents or others say, "Why go, my opinion doesn't matter anyway?" or "It's a done deal, what's the point?"

The City of North Plains leadership has provided public involvement opportunities in a minimalist fashion and has not carried out a great public involvement program. **What choice do you, myself or other Oregonians have in this situation? Give up? That is the easiest!**

A great public involvement program has benefits to local agencies and planners as well as for community members. [https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/Publications/PPIP-Final\\_2019-06-30.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/Publications/PPIP-Final_2019-06-30.pdf)

### **1.2.1 Benefits to Local Agencies and Planning Practitioners**

*Effective public involvement requires active outreach. This means that agencies must proactively seek out their intended audiences and work hard to elicit input and feedback. But resources are limited, and agencies cannot force people to participate. So why should local agencies commit the time and resources to do public involvement well? Consider these benefits:*

**Public confidence.** *Broad participation helps give elected leaders confidence in their decisions. It also fosters the public's trust in government, solidifying an agency's legitimacy and building the personal and professional credibility of agency staff.*

**Better decisions.** *Community members have intimate knowledge of the places they live, work, shop and recreate. They can point out potential benefits of planning decisions as well as help to head off unintended consequences. Also, as agencies seek to make data-driven decisions, thoughtful analysis of information collected from the public involvement process provides elected leaders and planners with data and information that reflects the public will, helping them to justify the outcome and decisions made.*

**Balanced perspective.** *As more views are gathered, it is more likely a plan will reflect a community's needs and address its most important concerns.*

### **1.2.2 Benefits for Community Members**

*Members of the public may experience these benefits from a well-designed public involvement program:*

**Increased knowledge.** *Public involvement provides opportunities for community members to increase their understanding of places that matter to them, and to become educated about planning concepts and processes.*

**Ownership.** *People tend to accept decisions that they help to make in the interest of the public good, even if the decisions are hard or personally disadvantageous.*

**Giving Back and Paying Forward.** *Public participation strengthens the democratic process, helping people to realize their responsibilities to each other in creating a shared vision for the future. Many of the positive things we enjoy about the places we live today are the direct result of participation by community members who have gone before. By participating in planning for the future, people can help to shape the character and sustainability of their community for generations to come.*

The referendum is NOT throwing away the time, effort and resources put into the North Plains UGB proposal. It IS a pause and opportunity for SMART growth WITH a [great public involvement program](#) for TRUE success and hopefully to achieve 100% of the benefits when the process is complete.

ALSO this method had to be used within so many days following the North Plains City Council vote on the ordinance. We were already testifying at the County level when the Planning Committee and Commissioners were advised and voted to wait until the May elections.

The Friends of North Plains Smart Growth, as a small organization has accomplished an inspirational movement!

A city that had stagnant engagement started to have bodies in the room and people on the Zoom window.

Please do not pass this bill as currently amended on to a vote.

This is not a good bill for Oregonians. Especially as a gut and stuff as it is.