

Dear Rep. Clem and Members of the Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water,

My name is Rick Cook, as a former Chair of the Stafford Hamlet Board of Directors I would like to express a few "quick" thoughts about HB 3211.

I would strongly encourage the committee to invite the Stafford Hamlet to have a seat on the panel as this bill moves forward. There is currently NO ONE that represent our area on your committee that will be making decisions about our future.

Since our inception, we have worked extremely hard to inform Clackamas County of what we would like to see in our area. Formation of the Stafford Hamlet, our Vision and Values statement, an Advisory Vote last October- encouraged by Clackamas County to "Tell us what you want", Development of our Community Vision Plan, and "The Stafford Compromise" has lead to our outreach to our neighboring cities. I feel we have EARNED our seat at the table.

Clackamas County Commissioners have struggled with coming up with a plan for our area, (an "ask" in waiting) and seems to have put the task at your feet. We would like to be sure that we help fulfill Goal 1 of citizen involvement at the State level and present you with GOOD and CURRENT data and information from the Citizens of Stafford Hamlet about our future.

We do not have the resources to hire lobbyists to put our message forward like some special interest groups from our area. Just as most of our board and citizens can't be with you today because of job commitments but would love the opportunity to have a voice at the State level in crafting our future.

Thank you for considering having a place for us as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,

Rick Cook  
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