

Citizen Testimony in Favor of H 2938

Marion Trope'

Independence

Family takes "no public assistance of any kind"

"My septic tank was in perfect condition when I was forced to fill it in and stop using it. I was forced to hook up to the city sewer and pay larger utility bills each month which I could not afford. It was almost impossible but I did it until the time I moved."

People live outside cities because taxes are lower. Many rural families Cannot afford BOTH healthcare AND additional taxes.

Neighborhoods

Six families moved away because paying the extra costs.

The neighborhood around me suffered many of the homes became rentals instead of owner occupied and property values declined.

The future

"One day [Mother] may have to live in our home and that may require remodeling to accommodate. If this bill does not pass, a building permit may force us into annexation. We take no financial assistance for her health or care and would not be able afford to pay for the increased taxes and fees as a result of becoming part of the city.

We are legion

I am one of thousands of homeowners living in Oregon who have chosen to live outside the city because it is more affordable. There are many homes in the county owned by elder Oregonians who are living on fixed budgets. Many other of these home have been purchased by young couples who may be hoping to start families, budgets are often tight and jobs are sometimes precarious. If a remodel were to force these young families into annexation it could be the straw that breaks them financially

Joseph Auth and 18 others

Preserve urban farming

Forced annexation terminates farm deferral - generations of love and labor that farming requires are lost as well as the environmental, economic and aesthetic advantages of

- a) allow farm deferral property owners the right and opportunity to repair septic systems if there are no health issues
- b) amend ORS 222 so that farm deferrals and tax breaks associated with farming have the option of not annexing if they pay city or county a reasonable fee for sewer service.

Kathy Sayles

impact on neighborhoods - We consider ourselves a **neighborhood** and pay taxes for all the services we receive (and we also subsidize the taxes of other zones, according to a well-researched study performed by our elected auditor a few years ago).

My **neighbors'** houses tend to be on acreage with septic tanks.

life changes - ex. a house-sale, must apply to our County sewage district for septic inspection. When there's a problem, County denies repair permits when a County sewer line is within 300', and located within city boundaries. The law requires hook up to this sewer before the house can be sold.

When owners go to the City to hook up to the sewer line the City informs them that they must annex to the City before sewer access is granted.

Except for sewer there are no changes in services but property taxes are much higher once annexed to the City.

OCVA

Oregon Communities for a Voice in Annexations

Promoting and Protecting Citizen Involvement in Land Use Issues

P.O.Box 1388, North Plains, OR 97133 - 1388

541-747-3144

www.ocva.org :: info@ocva.org