

From: Brian Beinlich
To: [HTP Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Rep Williamson](#); [Rep Sollman](#)
Subject: Testimony in opposition to HB 3231
Date: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 7:59:23 AM

Dear members of the House Transportation Policy Committee:

I am writing today in opposition to HB 3231. My opposition is based on these observations:

1. The bill would allow cities and counties to form a special taxing and revenue district to undertake everything involved with financing, designing, building, and operating a limited access tollway. **This district would have the authority to override rural reserves designations.** Rural reserves are specifically intended to provide certainty to farmers for a 40- to 50- year time frame.

HB 3231 is the latest in an ongoing series of attempts by the Legislature to overrule the Urban and Rural Reserves designations that were finalized in 2014, despite an agreement as part of the "Grand Bargain" (HB 4078) that the Legislature and counties would make no further attempts to change Reserves designations. **Legislators (in particular Rep. Clem, who coordinated the efforts on HB 4078) should honor their promises and stop messing around with the Reserves designations.**

2. The project that HB 3231's sponsor describes is incredibly expensive (estimates of \$12-20 billion have been noted). **The Legislature should instead direct transportation dollars toward projects that reduce dependence on automobiles.**

3. HB 3231 takes the long-dead Westside Bypass, which would have built a highway through the fertile Tualatin Valley, and extends it through French Prairie, which has the most productive soils in the world, and across natural areas and the Columbia River into Washington. **Oregon should not sacrifice these irreplaceable natural resources on the altar of auto and truck transportation.** The Legislature should instead work to find a solution to the shipping disputes on the Columbia River, which have caused container operations to leave the Port, forcing businesses to use trucks instead of ships to transport cargo.

Please vote against moving HB 3231 out of your committee.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

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