

April 5, 2017

Representative Caddy McKeown, Chair,
Rep.CaddyMcKeown@oregonlegislature.gov
House Committee on Transportation Policy
htp.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: HB 3231

Chair McKeown and Committee Members:

My name is Kathryn Jernstedt and I live at 8156 NE Mineral Springs Road, Carlton, on the Frank and Anna Jernstedt Century Farm. The family has farmed in Yamhill County since the 1880s and is deeply concerned about the preservation of Oregon's high value farmlands and EFU agricultural operations. I will not be able to attend the hearing but feel very strongly that this bill as written would do more harm than good.

I do not doubt that people surveyed have stated a strong preference for being able to drive where they want as quickly as possible. But this isn't science fiction and we can not disregard the space time continuum any more than we can wish away the growth in the region. Nor is it appropriate for one population to disregard the agreed to principles of land use, comprehensive planning, and transportation design for their own self-interests and profits.

Extreme caution should be taken when considering granting any entity the powers of eminent domain. My family has first hand experience with that process and the disregard for generations of stewardship and pride of place most farm families have. What the drivers in a yank to get through as fast as possible want paved over are homes, farms, communities with legacies that deserve respect – and represent Oregon's second largest industry.

Special Districts have had their share of problems and controversies, usually with overlapping or adjacent jurisdictions that feel treated unfairly. The up and downstream impacts of these sorts of transportation projects become burdens on those not benefiting from the district revenue stream. That something can be done to make someone a buck does not make it good public policy.

Please do not advance this deeply flawed bill. Thank you for your attention.

Kathryn Jernstedt
8156 NE Mineral Springs Road
Carlton, Oregon 97111
kljernstedt@comcast.net