



Save Helvetia
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www.SaveHelvetia.org

*Advancing policies, leaders and actions
that protect Helvetia's treasured resources*

May 31, 2017

TO: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Subject: Opposition to -7 Amendments to SB 418

Honorable Committee Members:

We are writing to express our opposition to the -7 Amendments to SB 418

The -7 Amendments to SB 418 violate Goal One of SB 100.

- This amendment would require Metro to exclude from its buildable land inventory any lands inside the UGB that do not have an infrastructure plan and funding committed to serve the land within 5 years. Metro estimates that over 15,000 acres inside the UGB would be taken out of the buildable lands inventory, all around the UGB. The direct impact of this amendment would be to increase pressure to expand the UGB onto farm land. Helvetia farmland has experienced consistent pressure from development interests due to being adjacent to the UGB. This amendment would increase that pressure.
- The late notice and lack of warning about this set of amendments prevents the robust citizen involvement process required by Goal One of SB 100. It creates an end run around the planning and input opportunities for citizens required by Goal One that are enshrined in county ordinances for local land use planning.
- This change to the current and historic buildable land assessment methodology should be discussed by Metro and its city and county partners. The regional process allows for the appropriate public notice and citizen involvement required by Goal One of SB 100. This is not a decision that should be made by the legislature. The legislature should let Metro and its partners do their job via the regional process that all the local governments have agreed to.
- The -7 Amendments to SB 418 would take away the right of appeal, an established system of redress, a valuable check and balance in the scheme of land use planning. The development of standing and the right to appeal to a higher level of review helps our land use system remain robust. This is quality assurance. It helps

governments follow the law and its ordinances. Citizens and advocacy organizations bring forward detailed information and perspective about lands and issues that governments might be more distant from.

We urge you to follow the process of our established system of land use planning and vote NO on the -7 Amendments to SB 418.

Respectfully,

Cherry Amabisca, President

Robert Bailey, Secretary

cc: Save Helvetia Board of Directors

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