

To Senators and Representatives,

In support of HB 4075

A 2014 land use bill erroneously locked my land into state control. Today I am asking my land be returned to local control with the UR designation which was found to be appropriate by planners at Washington County, Metro and LCDC. Certain groups including Save Helvetia oppose that change and are basing their position on the fact the 1700 acres in question must be preserved as farm ground. I find this somewhat entertaining considering new building is alive and well in North Plains 1 mile to the north of where I live and closer to Helvetia. Following is a letter I prepared for a recent town hall.

In 1992 when my wife and I purchased our home on Jackson School Road local land use regulations were administered by Washington County.

Today, barring action by the state, HB 4078 has locked my land into an RR designation FOREVER!!!! This statement is supported by opinions from attorneys at both the State of Oregon and metro.

Time for some facts.

Fact #1. Oregon has 19 land use goals. Save Helvetia and their cohorts are currently focusing on only goal 3. Farmland. How about goal 10? Provide for the housing needs of the citizens of the state. Goal 12? Provide for safe and convenient transportation. Goal 13? Energy Conservation. Jobs are magnets and will continue to attract people. Today 18% of Intel's work force commutes from Clark County, Washington. A 60 mile per day round trip, 220 days per year because of the lack of affordable housing in Washington County. How does constricting housing supply conserve energy or help air quality?

Fact #2. Landscape products, including grass seed account for 50% of Washington County's agricultural sales volume. Is this critical? Know anyone that eats grass seed?

Fact #3. In the period from 1982 to 2002 Ag land in Oregon shrank by 4.6% while revenue for Ag products increased 52.8%. The source of this info is the USDA Website. As of March 2016 23.8 million acres were enrolled in the USDA'S CRP program, a federal program that pays farmers to leave their land fallow to discourage overproduction. CRP acreage is 1 ½ times the total acreage farmed in Oregon. The mantra that we must save farmland is simply not true.

Fact #4. Goal 2. Paraphrasing a bit. Land use decisions and actions are to be fact based.

So, in summary. Lacking an honest argument you may need to focus on a single point which supports your position, ride that point like a rented mule and conveniently ignore all the rest.

Respectfully,

Larry Sullivan