

Hamre Jaime

From: Mollie Nelson <molliemnelson@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:20 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: Opposition to HB 4075

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Chair Clem and Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing to you today to ask that you OPPOSE HB 4075 which is being heard by your committee on Thursday.

I understand that this bill is about farmland located near Hillsboro, but my husband and I have spent many hours directly involved in the Urban and Rural reserve designation process since the 5 acres we own and have made our home was/is directly affected by this process several years ago. Our land serves as a natural corridor and habitat for wildlife, preserves natural landscape features of the area, and is surrounded by actively farmed land in Multnomah county, in fact our representative Witt is serving on your committee. We deeply care about the process and results of that Reserves designation.

We attended and testified at numerous public hearings and sent countless letters via email to elected officials at the county, with Metro, and at the state level. Metro and the 3 counties (Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas) worked together thoughtfully and carefully at the time the designations were made to create Urban and Rural Reserves which were balanced across the region. The process was extensive, lengthy, well-researched with vast public involvement. The original decisions were good decisions which are strongly supported by data and by a Citizen Advisory Committee, which showed strong support for these rural reserves. We believe the process was fair, well-documented, widely supported by the local and regional bodies and that those designations which were to remain in place for 50 years should not be changed. The core premise of the Reserves process was to provide long term certainty that taxpayers would benefit (through accurate and efficiently planned urban infrastructure serving the new urban areas) and that farmers and foresters could plan their investments to continue to support their livelihoods.

Having bills in the legislature every year or two that would change Reserves designations greatly undermines this certainty. These bills also undermine the trust of citizens who participated in the original process and who were promised 50 years of certainty — no one will trust the government's process if the results are not upheld.

We encourage you to uphold the well-studied original Reserves process which protects valuable wildlife habitat, farm and forest land in our region for future generations to enjoy.

Please OPPOSE HB 4075.

Thank you.

Mollie and Ted Nelson
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