



February 7, 2018

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
HB 4075: Regarding Urban and Rural Reserves

Clackamas County opposes HB 4075: The Board of County Commissioners opposes HB 4075, which proposes that certain real property in Washington County designated by Metro as rural reserve be redesignated as urban reserve.

The process to establish reserve designations in the Portland Metropolitan area was established by the Legislature in 2007, and Metro and Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties began work to implement these designations nearly 10 years ago. The Legislature enacted the new authority in response to a call by the Partner Governments to improve the methods available to them for managing growth. HB 4075 undermines the primary policy and purpose of the Urban and Rural Reserve designations, which is to provide certainty by identifying those areas where growth is, and is not, appropriate in the region over the next 40-50 years.

While the lands at issue are located exclusively within Washington County, the impacts of this legislation will have significant consequences on Clackamas and Multnomah Counties. Clackamas County's primary concern is that changes to the reserves map will further delay and confuse the process to resolve the remaining reserve designations in Clackamas County and Multnomah County. Such delays have prevented cities like Wilsonville from advancing their own growth strategies, and have had impacts on other communities as well.

A secondary concern is the shared acreage of urban reserve lands that exist for Metro communities. Adding new urban reserve lands in Washington County increases the possibility that urban reserve lands elsewhere in the Metro area are passed over when the Urban Growth Boundary is expanded in the future. Legislative changes to the existing agreed-upon reserve designations favors special interests over communities and disrupts the balance in the overall amount and distribution of urban and rural reserve lands across the entire Metro region.

We urge a "NO" vote for HB 4075.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.