

July 9, 2010

Urban and Rural Reserve Specialist
Department of Land Conservation and Development
635 Capital Street, N.E.
Suite 150
Salem, OR 97301

DEPT OF

JUL 13 2010

LAND CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT

Re: Adoption of Urban and Rural Reserves

I would like to formally object to decisions made by Metro, Multnomah County, Washing County, and Clackamas County regarding Urban and Rural Reserves.

I participated speaking at several of the Multnomah County and Metro meetings and providing written testimony relative to Area 9B. I urged its designation as Urban Reserves. My family has 115 acres of land that is located in the southwest corner of Area 9B, Multnomah county. The west edge of this property is the Washington County line at North Bethany. We raised cattle on that land from 1956 to 2008. We sold our cattle in 2008 because it had been a money loser 80% of the years and poor fences make for poor neighbors. And other liabilities increased by future North Bethany population growth, chemical storage and application and dust from tillage make for potential future problems.

The facts are that this area does not meet the guidelines established by SB1011 for Rural Reserves but it does meet the guidelines for establishing Urban Reserves.

The previously "Undesignated" L-shaped portion of the land in the S.W. Corner of Area 9B clearly does not meet the criteria for Rural Reserves. This land is not foundation agricultural land and there is no productive agriculture in this area. In fact, the Department of Agriculture designated it as "conflicted" agricultural land. The area is close to the Bethany Village Town Center and could be easily urbanized with an extension of existing and already planned serves, i.e. water, sewer, transportation, etc.

A regional planning approach would help this area become a logical transition from the high density suburban uses of Bethany to the open space of Forest Park, while expanding the existing trail network and protecting key landscapes and habitats. It would also help provide the needed infrastructure links to the North Bethany area. With the 9B L-shaped area designated Rural Reserves for the next 50 years this area will become a festive area for non-native, invasive species of plants. It will become an eyesore. It will not serve generations to come nor nature's animal life.

In summary, I do not believe that the required criteria were utilized by Metro in designating this area to become a Rural Reserve. Rather, it seems the process was highly political and did not follow the guidelines of SB1011. Do the proper job. Designate it Urban Reserves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Burnham
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Portland, OR 97229
(503)-292-5729

cc:

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Metro Store
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Maggie Dickerson
Clackamas County
Department of Transportation and Development
Development Services Building
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Chuck Beasley
Multnomah County
1600 NE 190th Avenue
Portland, OR 97233

Steve Kelley
Washington County
Department of Land Use and Transportation
155 N. First Ave., Suite 350-14
Hillsboro, OR 97124-3072

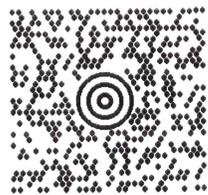
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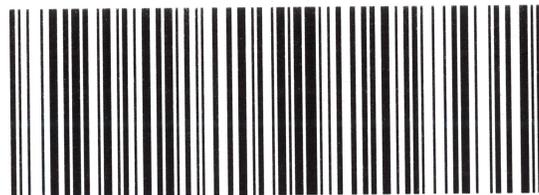


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