



Department of Community Services
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

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Land Conservation and Development Commission
635 Capitol St. NE, Suite 150
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Van Landingham and Members of the Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support of the proposed rules that implement Senate Bill 1011 by providing the framework for our region to designate urban and rural reserves. Your staff and Commissioner Worrix were key to helping the rulemaking work group develop the compromises reflected in the rule, and they deserve our thanks.

Deciding where we will and will not grow over the next 40 -50 years is in significant part a focus on our uncertain future, and an effort to shape it. This is an exercise that does not lend itself to compliance with criteria, but should be developed in a consensus based process. The proposed rules provide for that. We will at the end need to have reached some level of agreement for our reserves plan to reach you for acknowledgement. The rule strikes a balance between allowing the flexibility for the regional process to unfold, and ensuring meaningful opportunity for participants and LCDC to take a second look at the product to ensure that we got it right.

While the work group considered a number of important rule provisions in our meetings, there are two that stand out as having been particularly difficult to resolve. These are how the reserves designations reflect application of the factors, and the treatment of agricultural land. In our earlier testimony, we supported the concept of including a provision intended to ensure that the reserves decision in its entirety best meets the factors, and we support the objective statement in the purpose section of the rule before you. We also support the compromise language for treatment of the best farmland in the region (draft rule page 5 lines 2-8) because it recognizes the importance of Foundation Agricultural land to the long-term viability of farming in the region.

We are currently working with our regional partners to develop a Citizen Involvement Plan and collaborative process for designating reserves, and look forward to bringing the results of our efforts back to you at the end of 2009.

Sincerely,


Karen Schilling
Multnomah County Planning Director

EXHIBIT: I
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