



Slow Food® Portland

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

January 18, 2008

Dear Commissioners:

Slow Food Portland is a non-profit organization with over 500 members in the Portland metro area. Slow Food Portland is part of the global and national Slow Food movement that works toward a food system that is based on the principles of high quality and taste, environmental sustainability, and social justice – in essence, a food system that is good, clean and fair. Such a food system depends first and foremost on the availability of local farmland.

Slow Food Portland was the first chapter of its kind in the United States, founded in 1991 by local small business owners. Slow Food Portland, like its umbrella organization Slow Food USA, is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to supporting and celebrating our regional food traditions through programs and activities dedicated to defending biodiversity and building food communities. From the salmon in our local rivers to the produce at our farmers' markets and restaurants; from animal breeds and heirloom varieties of fruits and vegetables to handcrafted wine and beer, and farmhouse cheeses; these foods are a part of our cultural and geographical identity. They reflect generations of commitment to the land and devotion to the processes that yield the greatest achievements in taste.

These foods, and the communities that produce and depend on them, are constantly at risk from competing interests in and degradation of our farmland. Slow Food Portland therefore advocates for the central role and importance of agriculture in future land use decisions involving urban growth in the metro region. It is critical to protect prime farmland, e.g. foundation lands, which have been identified by ODA as especially valuable.

We feel strongly that if any of the best/foundation lands are urbanized, that they should be done so in an extremely efficient manner consistent with Metro's Great Communities plan. And we are hopeful that SB 1011 will offer the long-term protection to local agricultural lands critical to the agricultural industry and to the continued thriving of our food communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katherine Deumling
Chair, Slow Food Portland
Katherine@slowfoodportland.com; 503.239.1664