

From: Cherry Amabisca
13260 NW Bishop Road
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Date: March 2, 2011

To: Chair San Soucie and Washington County Planning Commission

Re: Washington County Land Use Ordinance 740

Today you are being asked to vote on adding 585 acres of Urban Reserves and 290 acres of Undesignated to the Helvetia area north of Hwy. 26. It's most recent label is Area D and E. Save Helvetia's position for the past two years has been that this large block of Foundation farmland is best designated as Rural Reserves. Extensive evidence is on record that describes why this area best fits the Rural Reserve factors and not the Urban Reserve factors.

You may not be aware of this, but nine Oregon state agencies *also* recommended that Area D be designated as rural reserves. These state agencies were the **Oregon Departments of Agriculture, Forestry, Transportation, Business Development, Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Quality, Water Resources, State Lands, and Land Conservation and Development**. On October 14, 2009, these nine state agencies issued a 21-page letter to the Reserves Steering Committee and Core Four members in which they provided recommendations for urban and rural lands throughout the region.

In this letter, which is titled "Joint State Agency Comments", they stressed that "These collective comments were not arrived at lightly, and reflect significant discussion and work to resolve competing policy interests and to provide Metro and the counties with clear, consistent recommendations."

Regarding the area north of Hwy. 26, they had this to say, "*The area north of Highway 26 to the west of Helvetia and east of Jackson School roads should be designated rural reserves to form a 'hard edge' to the boundary in this important agricultural region, except for area just east of the City of North Plains, which could remain 'undesignated'.*" (Page 19)

We believe that you should concur with the collective recommendations of the nine state agencies and **NOT** add these 585 acres of Urban Reserves to the north of Hwy. 26.

Respectfully,

Cherry Amabisca for
Save Helvetia