



Save Helvetia
www.SaveHelvetia.org

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September 25, 2013

Land Conservation and Development Commission
Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee
Agriculture Building
635 Capitol Street
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee Work Planning

Dear Commissioners and Committee Members,

Save Helvetia is a 501(c) 4 advocacy organization that advances policies, leaders, and actions that protect Helvetia's treasured agricultural, natural, and cultural resources for our region's present and future generations.

Save Helvetia presented objections and testimony to both DLCD and LCDC during the Urban and Rural Reserves Process. On several occasions, we presented lengthy and substantial objections to the process of citizen involvement in Washington County. As an appellant to the Urban and Rural Reserves decisions, our case remains before the State Court of Appeals.

Save Helvetia takes citizen participation as described in Goals One and Two of SB 100 to be founding principles in Oregon's land use landscape. We understand that the LCDC has tasked the Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee, in their 2014-2015 Work Plan, to undertake assessment and recommendations regarding "no cost and/or reduced cost" methods for citizen involvement.

Being a community-based organization, we have respect for cost efficient and effective methods of operation. At the same time, we have a history of being aggrieved by manipulations masquerading as citizen involvement. We would not want counties' complaints about unfunded mandates and burdensome costs to become a justification used by some to further devolve or manipulate citizen participation.

As the CIAC moves forward on this task, we would strongly recommend your support of CIAC's previous recommendation in their 2012-2013 Work Plan: Goal 1 "Research barriers and potential strategies toward fully implementing the vision of Goal I, including legislative and non-legislative solutions through LCDC."

In our estimation, a long-term cost effective method of assuring citizen involvement principles and practices would be to put Goals One and Two into Oregon Administrative Rules. This would result in citizen involvement becoming more "substantive" and enforceable. If they are in the Rules, counties are more likely to comply with good citizen involvement principles and practices. Should counties drift from good principles and practice, citizens would find stronger voice in challenging possible violations.

LCDC and through the CIAC can provide leadership here and cost effectively evolve Oregon's land use system in this way. We stand ready to assist with community-based support, networking, and participation.

Should LCDC only cut costs to counties without this bedrock of expectation, **Save Helvetia** would join with others in pursuit of this legislative outcome.

Respectfully,

Robert Bailey
Board of Directors
Save Helvetia