

1650 Northwest Susbauer Road
Cornelius, Oregon 97113

July 2, 2010

Urban and Rural Reserves Specialist
Department of Land Conservation and Development
635 Capitol Street Northeast, Suite 150
Salem, Oregon 97301

DEPT OF

JUL 07 2010

LAND CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT

To Whom It May Concern:

Having been an active participant in the reserves' debate, I am writing to file an objection regarding the decision to designate the land in my neighborhood north of Council Creek in Cornelius as Urban Reserves. I've been opposed to the plan for years, speaking out at Cornelius City Council and Washington County Board of Commissioners' meetings, as well as before the Metro Council. In addition, my daughter, Emma, and I have both submitted written testimony and petitions of names of area residents who are all opposed, our group name being "Friends of Council Creek." While I don't have specific dates, I know that either Emma or I presented verbal and written testimony at Washington County Board of Commissioners' meetings in August, October, and December of 2009. I addressed, and submitted testimony/petitions to, Metro in March of 2008 and, again, in October of 2009. I trust this is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that I was involved in the debate.

I object to the decision by Metro to designate the area north of Council Creek in Cornelius as Urban Reserves. From my interpretation of the state law regarding "Factors for Designation of Lands as Urban Reserves" (OAR 660), I see several violations. 1) To begin, paving over beautiful, valuable "foundation farmland" does not "avoid or minimize adverse effects." The soils in the area have been tested and proven to be some of the best in the state. Farmland must be preserved and protected. 2) Urbanizing the Council Creek area won't "preserve or enhance the natural ecological systems" of the wetlands, infringing on the habitats of the wildlife there, and it will only add to the area's carbon footprint. 3) Northwest Susbauer Road would not be able to handle the traffic volume that comes with development. There is no shoulder at all for most of the three mile stretch, for starters, so it's not at all conducive for those on foot, so the plan violates the requirement that it be walker/biker friendly. There are many accidents as drivers often speed excessively, closing the road down for police, fire, and medic personnel. Moreover, the road is closed nearly every year due to flooding. That causes lengthy delays due to detours and clogs up adjacent roads, many of which also shut down with the rising water. 4) Finally, Council Creek provides a natural, beautiful barrier as it is now, separating the urban and rural populations. It's my understanding that natural barriers are supposed to be a key element in the decision making process, yet it seems to have been totally disregarded.

Truth be told, we felt completely shut out from the proceedings, especially at the Washington County level. At one meeting, I signed up hours in advance and yet was denied the opportunity to speak, as was the case with well over half those present. So, finally, our hopes rest with the Land Conservation and Development committee members who will be reviewing the decision. What would resolve my objection would be for you to reverse Metro's decision, determining that the area north of Council Creek in Cornelius needs to be designated as Rural Reserves, thereby protecting valuable foundation farmland, beautiful wetlands, and the area's rich history for generations to come. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

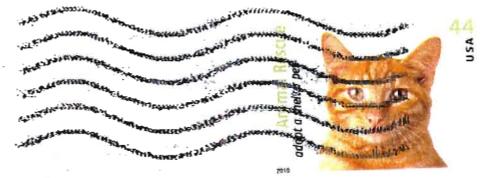


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