

Please reject Senate Bill 845 (the "Azalea" bill).

I have been deeply involved in a few land use issues in Washington County. I also have a very busy life (pediatrician, dealing with chronic medical issues with my two children, remodeling our house, volunteering to coach youth volleyball, vice-president of Oregon Aviation Watch, coordinating concessions for the state 5-A and 6-A state high-school volleyball tournament, continuing involvement with the Orenco Woods Nature Park development, and now Intel's request to revise their permit to pollute our air...)

Most everyone has a busy life and do not have the time to participate in the legislative process and certainly don't get into the details of land use law. But while everyone has a busy life they all have opinions, which generally agree that they want a livable community and they want fiscal responsibility. The problem is they are too busy to get involved and most all believe that it is a waste of time to try and influence legislative decisions.

It is my opinion that it all comes down to money. If you have the money you can afford the lawyers and the lobbyists to have legislation crafted and land use decisions made in your favor. I'm afraid this is what has given us Senate Bill 845. If you cannot afford the lawyer, the lobbyist, and you can't make significant political monetary contributions then you don't have any influence. Sure, you can submit a brief comment once in awhile but to make that comment relevant you need to understand what the details are for a given issue and that takes time, time that most people do not have. That is why if you have the money you can pay people to do the detail work so that your wish can be realized. Say I want to have the legislative cover to operate an airport in a rural area despite what it might do to the livability of my rural neighbors. If I have the money I can contribute to the legislators that will be making the decision – that money will get me access to those legislators. I can also hire lawyers and lobbyists to spend the time to get the details and get involved with making the process work for my desire. If I have the money I don't have to do the work... Without money an Oregon resident can try and do all the work themselves, they can try to create a grassroots movement that perhaps the politicians will listen to... but that is the exception as everyone has a busy life.

So, that said, while I do not understand the details of Senate Bill 845 from what I hear it has the potential to gut our land use process perhaps even including removing a citizen's right to appeal a land use decision at least in certain situations. What our leaders seem to have forgotten is that government is for all our citizens and its primary goal should be to ensure the livability of our communities in a fiscally responsible manner. The mantra seems to be that uncontrolled development (at least in Washington County) is necessary for jobs. The corollary, often raised by our leaders in Washington County is "Quality of Life begins with a job". This is a trite and dismissive statement. While a job is very important to quality of life, quality of life does not begin with a job. Quality of life begins with mental health, followed closely by physical health, followed closely by a loving

family, followed by a healthy environment, followed by freedom, then perhaps by a job.

Please reject SB 845 for the reasons that 1000 Friends of Oregon have brought up and for the reasons that other concerned citizens that have studied this issue have submitted. If we have livable communities, which includes a sustainable healthy environment, the jobs will come. Oregon shouldn't have to prostitute itself to get jobs.

Thank you,

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