

February 6, 2018

April Oster
10866 NW Jackson Quarry Rd.
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to ask that you please vote yes on House Bill 4075. It is extremely important that this bill passes now. Hillsboro is one of the fastest growing cities in the state of Oregon and will continue to do so as more industry moves into this area. It is because of this continued growth that it is vitally important to have land available for long term planning. House Bill 4075 will return 1700 acres to local control which will allow for our city to plan for its growth with the most accurate account of available land.

I am 32 years old and have been a resident of Hillsboro my entire life. I have seen Hillsboro change greatly in my lifetime. Some changes have been hard and some have been for the betterment of our community. I love farmland, I have lived on a farm most of my life. As much as I would love for it to remain unchanged, I realize that in order to have a prosperous, comfortable and well balanced community, farmland must be used and proper planning will allow for it to be used in the most efficient way possible.

For those who are against this return of land to local control, who say it needs more time, I say now is the time because waiting will just allow for improper planning. If Hillsboro does not allow for its own growth then the growth will happen on farmland someplace else where there is less ability to support that growth. The location of farmland within the 1700 acres discussed in the House Bill 4075, is in close proximity to Hillsboro proper. It just makes sense to have this land available for planning as it is already affected by our growing population. Jackson School Rd. North cuts through this area and is a heavily congested road, so much so that a roundabout was recently constructed. Even with this addition the road is so heavily traveled that it makes farming in the area difficult. My family still farms land within the 1700 acres and trying to move crops, or farming equipment can be dangerous and causes further congestion in an already congested area.

Having this land available will help alleviate the housing shortage. By passing House Bill 4075, city planners can do their jobs well and plan communities that include homes, parks, and schools that are well developed and organized to better suit the needs of a growing city. This is an issue especially important to myself and my husband, as we have been trying to buy a house for over a year, but are consistently out bid by an overly competitive housing market.

It is time to put control of our community needs for land use and planning back into the hands of the people who call this city their home.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

April Oster