

Testimony in Opposition to HB 4092
February 9, 2018

Committee Chair McLain, Vice-Chair Vial, Vice-Chair Meek, Representative Bonham, Representative Evans, Representative Noble, Representative Salinas, Representative Wilson, and Representative Witt:

My name is Eric Hoem. I live in Wilsonville and am a member of the Charbonneau Civic Affairs Committee.

I am testifying in opposition to HB 4092. To me, this is an issue of appropriate decision-making process and policy, not airport runway extension. In that regard, the intent of HB 4092 is very clear: it dramatically alters established land use rules and public process in favor of airport developers wanting to fast-track their economic interests.

HB 4092 not only short-cuts Oregon land use processes, it short-circuits legislative expectations about public input.

My question is a simple one: What's the hurry?

Under Land Use procedures in Oregon, the normal approach would have been to seek a Conditional Use permit from Clackamas County. This approach would involve properly announced public meetings and a chance for all stake-holders to have timely notice and have their input officially recorded for the public record.

HB 4092 was not vetted that way. There were hastily called informational meetings without appropriate public notice and without a record of testimony. These meetings by-passed normal channels in favor of hurried process to get this plan to the legislature.

This approach stiff-arms legitimate public input, and sounds more like Chicago politics than Oregon Land Use decision-making process.

So again: what's the hurry?

I live near Aurora Airport and understand the many issues and sides to the prospect of runway extension. Stepping ahead of FAA approval and funding, and then dramatically altering land use rules is just not good policy. It completely leaves out deliberate public input, especially the farmers in area that is designated Exclusive Farm Use. This amounts to a legislative plum tossed to special interests.

I am especially concerned about how HB 4092 rewrites Oregon Land Use Policy. I do not have to read past page one before alarm bells start going off. Section 2, part 2 reads:

Notwithstanding ORS 197.251 and 836.610, a local government amending its land use regulations under this section or approving a state airport runway area extension is not:

- (a) Subject to the post-acknowledgement procedures under ORS 197.610 to 197.651;
- (b) Required to demonstrate compliance with any statewide planning goal; or
- (c) Required to obtain an exception to any statewide planning goal.

This bill would undermine standards of Land Use Policy that have been in place since Land Use Legislation was enacted under Governor Tom McCall.