

Testimony by RJ Cook Opposing HB 4095:

Proposed Legislation to Site Low-Income "Affordable Housing" on UGB Edge

Scheduled for public hearing on February 10, 2020, before the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chairs Noble and Williams, and Members of the Committee:

As owners of the Shipley/Cook Farmstead & Century Farm, on the National Register of Historic Places, home to a State of Oregon and Clackamas County Heritage Tree Grove, part of the Hazelia Agri-Cultural Heritage Trail, adjacent to the UGB,

I strongly oppose HB 4095.

Just became aware of HB 4095 and have major concerns.

As you know Stafford is still dealing with our Urban Reserves land use issues and HB 4095 will only compound the issues that have impacted the area for well over 25 years.

"The USDA conducts the Census of Agriculture every five years.

Provides a full count of farms across the country, broken down by income, crops and production practices. What the numbers show is a decline in the amount of farmland for every census taken over the last 20 years. Between 1997 and 2017, total land in farm production fell roughly 6% nationwide, from approximately 954.7 million acres to a little more than 900 million acres. The downturn is even steeper in Oregon, from 17.6 million acres in 1997 to 15.9 million acres in 2017, or nearly 10%. That's an average of 85,000 acres, or 132.8 square miles, of farms each year."

Ag Census shows declining farmland in Oregon By GEORGE PLAVEN Capital Press Apr 26, 2019

In your discussion would like to know,

- What is considered "Affordable" housing?
- It's not just "High-value farmland" that grows our secure food source.
- How will it be enforced? 50 Acres of development for 15 acres of affordable housing is not an acceptable tradeoff.

Affordable housing needs to be close to Transportation, walkable communities, etc.

Who will be going to pay for infrastructure when farmland is consumed for affordable housing?

FYI, \$2.7 billion dollars of infrastructure for the Borland area in Stafford alone if it were to be developed at current rates.

The Stafford Hamlet is currently planning a Rural/ Urban Interface through Active-Agriculture that will provide a "Carbon Sink" for secure food sources for generations to come.

Please take into consideration the protection of our future food sources and farm preservation.

Oppose HB 4095

Sincerely

RJ Cook for the JP and Susie Cook Family Farm

Lake Oswego