



Save Helvetia
13260 N.W. Bishop Road
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

www.SaveHelvetia.org

April 5, 2023

RE: Opposition to S.B. 1087

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

WHO WE ARE

Save Helvetia is a private, non-profit advocacy organization that has been working for the past decade to protect farm and forestlands in Washington County. Many of our Board members have been active in related efforts for many years prior to our formal organization in 2010, during the Urban and Rural Reserves planning process. Our success as a partner in litigation, when Washington County wrongly evaluated their reserves land, was a key factor that led to the passage of H.B. 4078, the Grand Bargain. Save Helvetia continues to be an active stakeholder in assuring that our urban and rural reserves function appropriately.

WHY WE OPPOSE S.B. 1087

- There are already too many non-farm activities on Exclusive Farm Use land. Adding to the list only adds to the increase in non-farm traffic through active farmland.
- There are already LCDC rules in place to allow for having a coffee when it is subordinate to farm stand rules.
- The importation of **noxious weeds** is one of the major threats to grass seed farming when urban traffic is increased. **Crop purity** is critical to the bot-

tom line for grass seed and other farming. Noxious weeds requires extra manual labor to eradicate, and walking through maturing fields can be damaging.

- **Dust from increased traffic on gravel side roads** is another threat to crops. Cumulative dusting delays crop maturation in affected areas and can spoil crops altogether. It should not be the farmers' task to work around these urban impacts.
- Often, urban drivers get "**velositized**" when transitioning from urban speeds onto rural roads. Increased speeds on rural roads without shoulders increases the chances of a "rollover": catching a wheel in the gravel shoulder, or having a metal-on-metal event with oncoming traffic. Traffic-related injuries in rural areas do not get the prompt response, adding to the perils. Inviting unfamiliar urban drivers onto rural roads is dangerous, according to ODOT.
- In our area, farmers have had to deploy convoys to get their machinery safely from area to area as a protection against urban traffic. These roads were engineered for "**farm-to-market**" use, not drive-through commuters or others.
- If in an outside cafe venue, one subjects the cafe goer to agricultural conditions: grass pollen in the air; dust from harvesting. These impacts continue throughout the prime summer months.

We live in a beautiful state and appreciate the desire to enjoy the out of doors. Perhaps the county could put out a bid for a vendor to provide cafe services at a county park: maybe a park that allows food carts.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bailey

Secretary, Save Helvetia

2007 Recipient of the Harold Haynes Award for Citizen Involvement, Washington County