



[SAVE HELVETIA](#)

13260 NW Bishop Rd
Hillsboro, OR 97124
March 25, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment **Support for HB 3422**

Save Helvetia, a private non-profit advocacy organization, has been active since 2010 to protect farm and forestlands in Washington County. We organized during the Metro Urban and Rural Reserves planning process, studying lands in and around the Helvetia area, submitting testimonies to Washington County, Metro, and LCDC. We were among the appellants to the Oregon State Court of Appeals who prevailed in our citizen science assertions. The county and Metro had misapplied the law and administrative rules in selecting the urban and rural reserves lands. The court remand of the reserves decision led to unprecedented negotiation in the legislature – the Grand Bargain (HB 4078) of 2014. This “one-time-only” land-use bill had unanimous, bipartisan support among the affected jurisdictions. We are now affiliated with 1000 Friends of Oregon, continuing to monitor and defend land use laws and principles. Since 1843, farmers have stewarded the land here, giving us food, beauty, and climate security.

We support HB 3422. It's bringing parity to the process – expecting all energy facilities covering farmland to consider alternative locations – which could better recognize and respect our land-dependent agricultural economy. In Oregon, thousands of acres have been used for solar facilities; that's likely just the beginning! In our Washington County community, farmers receive solicitation texts and emails regularly looking for solar leasing. Solar installation brings a heightened threat that can further weaken our farming supply chain in the Tualatin Valley, our tributary of the Willamette, where our best-in-the-world soils are already about half lost to fast-paced urbanization. Our farmers cannot farm without land – nor can they farm without access to supplies, equipment, or local and international markets. Each non-farm land-use lease compromises our future by damaging the productive soils and breaking links in the supply chain. Our resilient, traded sector ag industry is vital, especially when the technology cycles hit their lows. We must recognize and protect the needs of the ag industry! While we are strong supporters of clean, renewable energy sources to meet current and future energy needs, we're certain they should be sited in locations where they will not take our fertile farmland out of production. This bill would create parity and set equal land use procedures for all energy facilities.

Yes on HB 3422.

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Advancing policies, leaders and actions that protect Helvetia's treasured resources.