

One Pager Talking Points

The Short Session is not the time or place for complex policy debates. An attempt to upend state land use law and rule is inappropriate.

Breaching the Settlement Agreement that resulted in HB 4078 (2014) would make a mockery of the Urban and Rural Reserves process that was billed to assure certainty for the long term. Credibility will be lost.

Washington County and the City of Hillsboro swore support for the Settlement Agreement (HB 4078). They are now in breach of their sworn oaths to the legislature and the then governor.

Hillsboro negotiated for “South Hillsboro” and the “North Hillsboro Industrial area”. Both are well under development and they cannot give them back. Now they want what they traded for: the protection of prime farmland.

Hillsboro wants to now move ahead of all other cities in the Metro region with unbridled hubris.

Hillsboro has squandered the promise of JOBS with low employment data centers, a golf venue, fast food outlets and an Amazon parking lot. Spiking energy and water demands are the result.

Appellants incurred thousands of dollars in legal and manpower costs and their assertions were backed by the State Court of Appeals. Where is fairness? This is grand theft.

Hillsboro’s demand for these acres is devoid of any agricultural analysis, required under the Reserves laws and rules.

Washington County is just now reorganizing their 40 year old citizen involvement program. It will not be stabilized in time to weigh in on this huge change-up. Neither the county or the city has begun a citizen awareness alert regarding this backroom plan.

1000 Friends of Oregon inventoried numerous other available sites Throughout the State of Oregon that were zoned industrial and awaiting development. There are ready alternatives.

The allure of land for data centers and AI are temporal and through time will be replaced with sun powered facilities in space. Taking prime agricultural soils is irrevocable. The longer view must be seen.

State energy goals are already compromised by the proliferation of data centers and their power needs. The data companies are already seeking nuclear reactors to make Oregon work for them. Hillsboro has 34 data centers and has not yet begun to have this conversation with its residents.

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