

7547 NW Skyline Blvd
Portland, Oregon 97229
June 10, 2012

Patrick Hinds
Multnomah County Land Use & Transportation
1620 SE 190th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97223
Re: Board of Commissioners Hearing June 14, 2012, on Vacation of "Hillhurst Road"

Dear Commissioners:

We are the owners of the disputed 30-foot perimeter strip in the Hillhurst subdivision. The dispute itself does not need to be revisited for you to reach the following conclusion: the proposed road vacation is in the public interest. County staff has presented a number of cogent reasons for reaching this conclusion. In this letter, we sum up three of them for your review at the hearing.

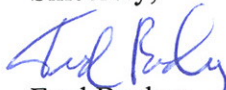
First, it is important to know that all of the current Hillhurst property owners have access independent of the 30-foot strip, which has never been improved as a public road. As indicated in the County Engineer's report of April 26, 2012, the County has no current or future plans to build a road in this area, which traverses canyons and steep slopes that preclude road development. Useful forest roads do exist within Hillhurst, just not on the perimeter strip. So it is in the public interest to vacate because it serves no purpose.

In addition, the County Engineer reported that this area has been designated Rural Reserve, an action we wholeheartedly support, and it is zoned for forestry use. County staff has communicated to us that we cannot expect to practice forestry in the perimeter strip if it were a right of way, even if it remains in a state of nature. The practice of forestry on this land is very important to us, and is in the public interest as acknowledged in State and County Land Use Goals.

Finally, it is in the public interest to avoid the costly litigation that is the alternative to this proposed vacation. While vacation of the perimeter strip hurts no one – the staff report in Resolution 2012-046 indicated no other citizen or government participation is anticipated in this process – County expenses on litigation of this kind routinely exceed \$50,000. The costs to the public of pursuing an appeal are not justifiable in this situation.

Please follow the staff recommendation regarding the public interest in this matter, and approve the Hillhurst vacation resolution on June 14, 2012. Thank you very much for your time, consideration, and we appreciate your support of forestry on this land.

Sincerely,


Fred Bacher


Corinne Bacher