

13626 NW Old Germantown Rd
Portland OR 97231
September 2 2009

Multnomah County Commissioners
Urban and Rural Reserves Hearing

To the Multnomah County Commissioners:

Chair	Ted Wheeler
Commissioner	Deborah Kafoury
Commissioner	Jeff Cogan
Commissioner	Judy Shiprack
Commissioner	Diane McKeel

Dear Madam/Sir.

Portland and environs is a unique place because of significant previous foresight in urban planning and development. The result is Forest Park and the areas surrounding it that provide a protected rural area so close to the city. I live on Old Germantown road. This is a rural area that abuts Forest Park and provides a buffer for the wildlife living in Forest Park, is an important watershed area and has working farms. Moreover the area surrounding Forest Park provides multiple leisure activities for Portland, Beaverton and Hillsboro city residents. Old Germantown Rd is a major cycle route as it is quiet and picturesque. Cyclists often stop by my house (half way up the steep hill) and tell me how lucky they are to have this area of peace and tranquility so close to the city. People also hike out of Forest Park and down the road to enjoy a walk in the countryside.

Unfortunately this extraordinary area is yet again "under the gun" for consideration of an urbanization. In 2006, 84% of those who responded to a survey conducted amongst residents of our area were against urbanization. This survey was conducted in response to the proposed expansion of the urban growth boundary in Washington County for the development of North Bethany. Despite the overwhelming opposition from the community this development will most directly affect, North Bethany urbanization will go ahead.

You as the county Commissioners now have the decision to make about the remaining portion of this area. Do you preserve what is left of Forest park buffer zone for the future enjoyment of Portlanders, or will you let Portland become yet another undistinguished city of urban sprawl?

The CAC has recommended that areas 6 and 7 are made rural reserves. This is the area described above. I agree with this

However ALL of the area needs to be rural reserve, including the area on Springville road that has been singled out by CAC for possible alternative designation.

Please be aware that the landowners in this area (including myself) own multiple acres and we will make vast amounts of money (millions) from selling land to developers should urbanization occur . There is a small group of my neighbors who are conducting an eloquent and robust campaign for an area along Springville road to be urbanized and appeared to have pressurized the CAC into singling out this area on Springville for special designation. However, please ask yourself who will benefit most from urbanization of any of the area 6 and 7: the very small number of landowners and the developers..... or the people of Greater Portland and environs?

The choice is yours: please think about the legacy you are leaving for your grandchildren

Yours faithfully,

Penelope D Barnes
Property and landowner Old Germantown Road