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MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP

Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk
*****This form is a public record*****

MEETING DATE: 2-18-10

SUBJECT: Reserves

AGENDA NUMBER OR TOPIC: non-agenda public comment

FOR: _____ AGAINST: _____ THE ABOVE AGENDA ITEM

NAME: Carol Chesarek

ADDRESS: 13300 NW Germantown Road

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Portland, OR 97231

PHONE: DAYS: _____ EVES: _____

EMAIL: _____ FAX: _____

SPECIFIC ISSUE: _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: attached

IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

1. Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk.
2. Address the County Commissioners from the presenter table microphones. Please limit your comments to **3 minutes.**
3. State your name for the official record.
4. If written documentation is presented, please furnish one copy to the Board Clerk.

IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE BOARD:

1. Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk.
2. Written testimony will be entered into the official record.

Carol Chesarek
13300 NW Germantown Road
Portland, Oregon 97231

February 18, 2010

Chair Wheeler and Multnomah County Commissioners
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97214

RE: Rural and Urban Reserves

Chair Wheeler and Commissioners,

I keep hearing odd things about Reserves process, things that make no logical sense. But like the rest of the public, I'm handicapped. You aren't talking about Reserves in work sessions, and there wasn't a lot of discussion at your December hearing. So we don't know what you've heard or what you're thinking. We have to guess. Of the 4 governments involved in Reserves, our process has been by far the least open and transparent over the last few months.

One of the things I learned when I served on the CAC was the value of an open, public process. We discussed our thinking and our decisions in open meetings, and we heard a lot of public comments. Some of the things we heard were untrue. But because the information was presented in public, misinformation was always challenged.

Metro Council has discussed Reserves in many open work sessions over the last 3 years, and they debated and voted on their own Reserves proposals in December. Council's positions are pretty well known, though of course they could change.

We're now in bilateral negotiations with Metro about our remaining option areas, 9A and 9B. If there was any pressure on Multnomah County to keep 9B undesignated (instead of Rural Reserve) Metro Council would be the obvious source. But I think most of Council either wants 9B to be Rural Reserve, or they want Multnomah County to decide.

- Councilors Burkholder, Park, and Liberty proposed a Reserves map with 9B as Rural Reserve; I think it unlikely that they would object to a Rural Reserve.

- Council President Bragdon, and Councilors Hosticka, Collette, and Harrington voted in December for a Reserves map with both 9B and 9C undesignated. But Council President Bragdon and Councilor Hosticka said publicly (more than once) that they didn't care strongly about western Multnomah County, they were just trying to reflect our initial County recommendations. I haven't heard any Councilor object to the County's new proposal that 9C should be Rural Reserve, or to indicate that they'd object to a Rural Reserve in 9B.

- Metro Council unanimously adopted a policy that areas near the UGB that qualify for Urban or Rural Reserves should be designated.

- At Metro's January 14 hearing, Councilor Hosticka asked our neighborhood folks why we were testifying about Rural Reserves to Metro, because (he said) Rural Reserves decisions were really up to each County and Metro had little influence over them.

- I haven't seen anything to indicate there's a new Metro Council push to keep 9B undesignated.

So it's hard for me to believe that a Multnomah County decision to make 9B a Rural Reserve would be a "deal breaker" for Metro Council.

Clackamas County voted at MPAC to support Rural Reserves for all of Area 9 -- support, not opposition. Washington County abstained at MPAC, and they have protested Clackamas County efforts to influence Reserve decisions in Washington County. I seriously doubt they would make our 9B into a regional deal breaker. And if Washington County is attempting to influence our decisions they should do so publicly so they can be held accountable.

MPAC voted 14 (yes) - 0 (no) - 2 (abstentions) to support Rural Reserves for all of Area 9 – that's a pretty strong indicator of regional support.

The conflicts over every other remaining option area are well known and publicly debated, any conflict about 9B should be publicly debated too.

I don't believe that any of the other three parties would make 9B into a deal breaker. I can't believe any of them care enough about 9B. If I'm wrong, prove me wrong in public.

I think I have good reason to believe that at least three of you would like 9B to be a Rural Reserve, though of course someone may have changed their mind. But please -- be honest with each other about the outcome you prefer. Don't assume we have to settle for less. If a majority of this board would like 9B to be a Rural Reserve, please verify that any opposition is real before you compromise.

And if there is opposition, please make sure it's out in the open and on the record.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carol Chesarek

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