



**SUGAHARA, Kenji**

August 27, 2015

Agenda #: R.1

Kevin COOK <kevin.c.cook@multco.us>

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## Sauvie Island Rural Area Plan

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**T. Kenji Sugahara** <kenji@obra.org>

Wed, Aug 12, 2015 at 11:23 AM

To: karen.c.schilling@multco.us, kevin.c.cook@co.multnomah.or.us, Harry Dalgaard III <harry@traveloregon.com>, Nastassja Pace <staj@traveloregon.com>, portlandracing <kris@portlandracing.com>

Dear Karen,

It was brought to my attention that the Sauvie Island Rural Plan will be coming up for public hearing on the 27th.

I am very concerned about proposed Policy 1.5 regarding the "establishment of more restrictive permitting thresholds for the number of visitors and the frequency or duration of events than the maximums authorized by state law." My organization's promoters have events tied in with the farm experience at Kruger's Farm. Our organization firmly oppose the establishment of more restrictive thresholds and ask that the county adopt SB 960.

I am highly concerned about the make-up of the agri-tourism sub-committee and their general consensus that agri-tourism is not desired due to "high visitor impacts". It looks as if the concerns of one sub-committee member has not been addressed, specifically the comment "I ask that the county conduct a study based on science and facts to determine, the truth about the island having reached a carrying capacity before any policies [are] changed [and] is [not] proposed based on [a] few people[s] hear say." (page 2, Exhibit 2: Ag Policy Discussion Table) Further, Appendix 2: Agriculture & Agri-Tourism Background Report is incomplete as comments and issues are often cut-off, especially on Exhibit 2.

I am also very concerned that there were no representatives listed on the TAC from either Travel Portland, Travel Oregon or any other Destination Marketing Organizations. These organizations have an unmatched expertise in agri-tourism and work extensively with the legislature and localities on these issues. If they were involved with the process, please let me know. If they were not involved with the process, I ask that you work with them to ensure that both county employees and county commissioners are briefed by at least one of the organizations.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,

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Kenji Sugahara  
Executive Director & Attorney  
Oregon Bicycle Racing Association  
Oregon Tourism Commissioner  
Phone: 503-302-4935  
<http://www.obra.org>