

October 8, 2015

Tom Hughes, President
Metro Council
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

RE: Clackamas County Commissioner's vote to withdraw the Langdon Farm
property from Rural Reserve

I am writing as the chair of the Aurora Butteville Barlow Community Planning Organization. Our members own property, live and work in unincorporated Clackamas County south of the Willamette River.

Soils South of the Willamette River

One of the principal criteria for land being designated as a Rural Reserve is its ability to sustain agriculture. The Oregon Department of Agriculture has designated the lands south of the Willamette River, French Prairie and Canby Prairie, as Foundation Farmland. As such, it represents the best soils in Oregon.

Prior to becoming a golf course, Langdon Farm was under cultivation from the 1850s. The land was part of a Donation Land Claim by George L. Curry, one of Oregon's earliest territorial governors. In 1931 James Langdon acquired the parcel called Langdon Farm from his father-in-law Newton Beck. The Langdon's raised wheat, alfalfa, potatoes, sun flowers, beans, hops and fruit trees, as did their neighbors. Later the land was leased to grow Tulips. The farm was irrigated from a well that was only 110 feet deep. I believe that qualifies as Sustainable Farming.

I live in proximity to Langdon Farm, I can tell you that any seed you plant or floats into our property on the wind, will take root and grow. It is also the reason that Oregon State's North Willamette Extension Center is located less than a quarter mile from Langdon Farm.

We ask that you reject the Clackamas Commissioner's attempt to remove any part of French Prairie from a Rural Reserve and maintain the Willamette River as a buffer from the threat of urbanization.

Respectfully,

Ken Ivey
Chair, Aurora Butteville Barlow
Community Planning Organization
24780 NE Prairie View Drive
Aurora, OR 97002

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