

October 2, 2015

To Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette,

My name is Jon Iverson and I am the president of Clackamas County Farm Bureau, as well as a farmer in Clackamas County unfortunately I am unable to attend the hearing on October 8th. Clackamas County Farm Bureau would encourage Metro to keep the area south of Charbonneau designated as Rural Reserve. The farm ground in this area is some of the best in the world and the fear is that once development begins again south of the Willamette that the area will drastically change the area making it much harder for the farmers in the area to continue farming.

It seems it has only been a couple of years since we worked on the urban and rural reserve lines. Now it seems the county commissioners would like to totally bypass that process without any regard for the farmers that carefully negotiated that process, and relied on the assurance that their land of neighbors land would not be earmarked for development for at least 50 years.

I also think that by changing designation from rural reserve sets a dangerous precedent of non-farmers buying land in the hopes that they can repeat this process and change their land's designation into something other than agricultural use, driving up even more the cost of agricultural land. As a 28 year old farmer it is already near impossible for me to afford to buy land to farm, this will increase farmland's cost as investors can buy the ground for more money in the hopes of pressuring county commissioners to change their designation instead of the ground being protected in the rural reserve and being subject to the carefully negotiated local process.

I want to thank you for reading my letter I know the task you have at hand is not an easy one but I hope that you understand my points.

Sincerely,

Jon Iverson

Clackamas County Farm Bureau President