

Oregon Agricultural Alliance

## ***Alliance Informer***

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Analysis by Scott Ashcom

**Northern Willamette Valley - Metro gives counties 16 months to decide if non-farm development will go South of Willamette River near Wilsonville**  
In the 2007 Legislature, Metro was able to pass a bill creating a new type of planning area for Metro counties called "rural reserves." OAN was the only major farm organization supporting the legislation. Among other things, the bill created a way for counties to circumvent the "develop farmland last" hierarchy, adopted in 1995 to protect farmland against urban density development. One battlefield in the struggle between farmers and developers will be the area South of the Willamette River near Wilsonville called French Prairie. Another will be several areas in Washington County. Decisions by the three counties and Metro on which lands will be protected for farming (rural reserves) and which lands will be eligible for re-zoning for development (urban reserves) must be unanimous. The Maletis brothers own 400 acres South of the Willamette, 150 acres of which is Langdon Farms Golf Course just Southwest of Charbonneau. They are driving a dream to have their land rezoned from EFU to industrial including trucking facilities. They are even trying to interest the Klamath Indians in building a casino there. The Agricultural Alliance has opposed expansion of development South of the river, and will introduce legislation in the 2009 Legislature to enforce strict EFU zoning within a three-mile radius of the Aurora Airport. More to come on this issue for the next 16 months.