



May 19th, 2010

Dear Metro Councilors,

We are Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF), an Oregon-based non-profit working to protect and promote socially responsible agriculture in Oregon. FoFF is a grassroots organization promoting sensible policies, programs, and regulations that protect and expand the ability of Oregon's family farmers to run a successful land-based enterprise while providing safe and nutritious food for all Oregonians. Through education, advocacy, and community organizing, FoFF supports socially and environmentally responsible family-scale agriculture and citizens working to shape healthy rural communities.

We appreciate all the time and energy that you have already put into working on Urban and Rural Reserves, and hope that you will remember all the testimony you heard from farmers in Washington County. Rural roads are part of the web of rural reserves, and need to be protected as part of this plan. Do not allow Washington County to urbanize 212 more acres of rural roads. Cut through traffic already poses significant risks to farmers in Washington County and this will make a bad situation much worse. Please do not support Washington County's Urban Reserve proposal.

Please listen to the farmers *who work the land* and know the conflicts that will arise from increased urbanization near their farms, including any changes to road structures that are designed to bring increased urban traffic into or through the area. If these rural reserves are really to be protected for 50 years from urbanization, there should no reason to make any "improvements" to them beyond routine maintenance. And certainly no new roads should be needed in Rural Reserve areas.

Please follow the recommendations from the State Agencies to bring the Cornelius Urban Reserve south of Council Creek and to reduce the size of the Evergreen Urban Reserve area. Multnomah County should make Foundation Farmland south of Troutdale Rural Reserves.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our opinions.

Michele Knaus  
Friends of Family Farmers