



Save Helvetia
13260 N.W. Bishop Road
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

www.SaveHelvetia.org

June 7, 2023

**Opposition to Amendment “dash-17” to House Bill 3414
For a hearing on June 8, 2023 at 1 PM**

Honorable members of the House Rules Committee of the Oregon State Legislature,

Save Helvetia is a private, non-profit advocacy organization that has been working for over the past decade to protect farm and forestlands in Washington County. Many of our board members have been active in related efforts for many years prior to our formal organization in 2010, during the Washington County Urban and Rural Reserves planning process. Our success as a partner in litigation, when Washington County wrongly evaluated their reserves lands, was a key factor that led to the passage of H.B. 4078, the Grand Bargain of 2014. Save Helvetia has continued to be an active stakeholder in assuring our urban and rural reserves function appropriately.

The “dash-17” Amendment makes a mockery of the urban and rural reserves planning process for those counties that utilized it. That planning horizon was promised for 40 years, and included the input of the development community, cities, citizens, farmers, among others. Now comes this amendment to violate the urban and rural reserve-enabling legislation and the resulting H.B. 4078 (for Washington County), and the settled reserves in other counties.

The “dash-17” Amendment disrespects citizen involvement, ample notice to citizens and properties impacted and Metro as a regional government, among others. It is a “mischief amendment” that comes when the legislature is nearly over, and when the

public attention has been turned away by the Republican boycott. The extremely short notice is foreign to Oregon land use in this 50th Anniversary of S.B. 100.

While supporters assert the need for “affordable housing”, they should first assess the lands already available inside the urban growth boundaries and the backlog of those lands awaiting the development of necessary infrastructure. This attempt to bust out of the boundaries will certainly result in expensive single family residences that will fail to contribute to the affordable housing puzzle. It would leap-frog those lands that have done the work awaiting infrastructure development, causing chaos to cities’ planning.

We urge you to reject the dash 17 amendment to HB 3414.

Respectfully,

Robert Bailey, Secretary
Save Helvetia

Cherry Amabisca, President
Save Helvetia