

Metropolitan Service District

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December 24, 1979

Editor
The Oregonian
1320 S.W. Broadway
Portland, OR 97201

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To the Editor:

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Your editorial on the Land Conservation and Development Commission's approval of the Urban Growth Boundary (12/24/79) was one-sided at best. You state bluntly that "the market factor used to broaden the Portland area boundary is not an appropriate one." You then go on to attack one of the LCDC Commissioners for stating that the Portland area is "a unique urban area."

The so-called market factor addresses the uniqueness of the Portland urban area. If you hadn't noticed, the area is growing. It is growing fast and what is being attempted here is to prevent the "leaps and bounds" type of growth experienced in the past. Rapid growth uncontrolled is what created the 82nd Avenue strip commercialization, the Rock Creek of Washington County and the need for building moratoriums in Beaverton. The great American dream has always been an acre of land and a horse, so people and developers have gone where the resistance and the regulations have been least, and the result is unbridled and uneconomic growth.

The Urban Growth Boundary and its marketing factor protects against the leap frog development of the past. Those areas where growth is going to occur

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and where services can be extended economically and logically, are where growth should occur. If one makes it too difficult to allow in-fill growth to occur within those areas or restricts it altogether, then growth will occur elsewhere and pressure will be on the farm and forest lands we all want to protect.

The boundary is by no means perfect and will require adjustment. Some lands should be excluded and others added, but at least we have a starting point. Metro has imposed some significant restrictions on how local governments may proceed in allowing growth in their jurisdictional areas. As far as "confrontation, accommodation and compromise" go in reaching this decision, I always thought that was part of the democratic process. No one, including the Oregonian, has a corner on being right, and differences of opinion do exist. In this state and country we have always resolved those differences through a political process which includes airing all viewpoints and debating their advantages and disadvantages.

I'm not certain that I like growth any more than the Oregonian, but to turn a blind eye to the fact that it is occurring and will continue to in the future, is to do an injustice to generations that will come.

Sincerely,

Mike Burton

Mike Burton
Councilor, District 12