

Metro | Agenda

MEETING: EMERGENCY METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
DATE: February 25, 2014
DAY: Tuesday
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: Council Chamber, Metro Regional Center

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

1:00 PM **1. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE JUST CREATED FOR TODAY AFFECTING MATTERS OF METROPOLITAN CONCERN REGARDING LAND USE**

ADJOURN

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Materials following this page were distributed at the meeting.

Governor Kitzhaber
Speaker Kotek
President Courtney

Re: HB 4078 -__

We, the undersigned representatives of the following jurisdictions and entities, have participated in discussions to reach a collaborative resolution of the conflicts concerning Metro's pending urban growth boundary and urban and rural reserves. Recognizing the uncertainty created by the recent decision of the Oregon Court of Appeals, and the need to move quickly to provide a stable platform for our agricultural and urban communities as they plan for or economic future, we have taken the unusual step of supporting a legislative solution to this situation. Together, we have worked to reach a consensus that upholds the core elements of the region's UGB and urban and rural reserve decisions, while resolving the main issues on appeal concerning Washington County.

This legislation is not intended to affect the pending litigation (or remand processes) concerning Clackamas and Multnomah county urban and rural reserves.

For the foregoing reasons, we are pleased to support HB 4078-__.

[maybe mention some of the earlier saga of the bill prior to last Wednesday – original bill, our substitute language related to deadlines]

Last week, Metro strongly opposed the effort to legislatively establish the UGB and rewrite the map of urban and rural reserves. That effort violated the Metro Council's adopted legislative priorities and principles, which state that while the Legislature is responsible for establishing the process and policy framework for local land use decisions, specific local land use decisions should be made at the local level. At the time, we anticipated that the pending Court of Appeals ruling would move us toward resolution and ultimate implementation of both the reserves and the UGB.

However, that is not what happened: The Court's ruling would send the region back to the drawing board, creating much greater uncertainty at a time when predictability and progress are needed. The region needs to have a final map of urban and rural reserves to avoid several more years of process, and to avoid going back to the old system based primarily on soil quality, which did not adequately account for the suitability of land for urbanization and integration into the urban fabric of the region. While those rules did an admirable job of protecting our valuable agricultural industry, they also brought us Damascus.

Moreover, rather than overriding a local decision, this legislative effort represents the codification of an agreement between affected local governments, including Metro, and the key parties to the recent Court ruling. In passing HB 4078, the Legislature will be acting at the request of local governments rather than against the will of those governments.

As Metro Council President Tom Hughes has said, in a perfect world we wouldn't be doing this, but this is not a perfect world. Given recent events, HB 4078, as amended, will provide greater protection for farm and forest land, more predictability for local communities, home builders and industrial developers, and improvements to the land use planning process going forward.

The Metro Council urges you to support HB 4078.

DRAFT Metro Council Statement

Re: Reserves Settlement

February 25, 2014

Our entire region benefits from an effective, long range plan to protect farms and forests and provide good jobs now and in the future.

Oregon was founded on the premise that our land was the basis for our livelihoods and therefore warranted strong protection and thoughtful planning. The proposed agreement reached by the leaders and residents of our region and endorsed by our legislature is in keeping with our state's founding premise.

Given the importance of what's at stake, it is our responsibility as a community to come together to ensure we protect the things we love about this place – our working landscape, our natural beauty and our ability to provide good homes and good jobs for our growing families.

The local agreement reflected in HB 4078 rests on a solid foundation built through years of hard work by people from all across our region. It reflects our Oregon tradition of working together to protect the things that make our region a great place.

HB 4078 codifies the fundamental principles behind our region's decision about urban and rural reserves. The legislation provides the certainty we need to make the most of our existing cities, towns and main streets. The Metro Council supports its passage.