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Washington County Board of County Commissioners
Hillsboro, Oregon

Testimony for a Hearing on Ordinance 740

For the record, we (SaveHelvetia) asked the State of Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development Department, through a public records request, to disclose the communication they had with Washington County commissioners and/or staff since the October 29, 2010 oral remand, and related to the remand of Ordinance 733 and what was to become Ordinance 740.

We were surprised that the county was moving forward in mid-December, without any written remand order. We testified then and since, that Washington County should await the written order. We expressed concern that moving forward without the written order lacked clarity but also did not allow community groups such as SaveHelvetia to sufficiently participate in their Goal One based citizen involvement and participation role.

The Washington County BOCC determined by vote, nonetheless, to move forward, based on their understanding of the oral remand. This occurred just before two commissioners were to leave their roles and a new commissioner was to begin. This gave the impression of a rapid vote while the votes might be in support of this course of action.

We were surprised to learn that the State Department of Land Conservation and Development indicates that they had NO communication with Washington County commissioners or staff as Washington County moved rapidly to create Ordinance 740.

We again express our concern that this rapidly moving context puts citizen involvement in an inappropriately reactive position, not knowing the detail of the remand, and not being fully able to determine our rights of appeal through our bona fide standing in this matter.

For the Record,

Robert Bailey
For SaveHelvetia