

February 24, 2014

Contact: John Platt at 503-348-0882

**SAVE HELVETIA STATEMENT ON THE INTERVENTION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO ADDRESS FARMLAND PROTECTION ISSUES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.**

Save Helvetia is gratified that the Oregon Legislature and the Governor have recognized the importance of securing the process of farmland protection in Washington County and, for that matter, the state as a whole.

As an appellant in the recent Court of Appeals case that found Washington County, Metro and LCDC in violation of the state law governing the conversion of prime farmland for urban development, the Board of Save Helvetia is hopeful that recent discussions will result in the balancing of rural and urban land uses that was intended in Senate Bill 1011 in 2007 and Senate Bill 100, Governor Tom McCall's lasting legacy supporting farm and forest lands protection adopted in 1973.

Save Helvetia supporters spent thousands of hours in approximately 35 hearings over the past five years seeking to impress upon Washington County leadership the value of Helvetia farmland but our voices were not heard until we reached the Court of Appeals. While we were cautious about the implications of the Legislature and Governor intervening in what was originally intended as a local matter, we are pleased they have acted collaboratively and have provided citizens with an authoritative forum where we can be heard.

In that regard, Save Helvetia representatives participated in discussions with state and local representatives on Sunday in Hillsboro at the invitation of legislative leaders and we look forward to reviewing a tentative agreement that embodies our understanding. In any event, we plan to participate in upcoming hearings when the matter is formally introduced at the Oregon Legislature.

**Save Helvetia** is a coalition of neighbors, friends, and concerned citizens who are working to preserve [Helvetia](#) and its neighboring agricultural lands north of Highway 26. For more information, contact John Platt, Board Member, at 503-348-0882.

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