



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

April 11, 2017

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair

Re: SB 186 – Land use designation changes - **OPPOSE**

The League of Women Voters supports the 19 statewide land use goals and the careful process established by the Land Conservation and Development Commission to promote both conservation and development of land. We oppose SB 186, because we believe it seeks to preempt land use decisions that should first take place at the local and regional level, where citizen participation is a crucial part of the process.

The League would like to specifically comment on the provision in SB 186 to rezone a property in Clackamas County from “Rural Reserve” to “Rural Industrial.” This property, zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) in the French Prairie area south of the Willamette River, was recently purchased by the owners of a Wilsonville Subaru dealership on the north side of the river. They are now choosing to bypass the local land use process and, through this bill, are directly appealing to the Legislature for a change to “Rural Industrial.” This is because reserve agreements have already been hammered out, following an extensive citizen input process, and the Subaru owners would most certainly be denied this zoning change at the local level. The city of Wilsonville issued the following statement last year: “Wilsonville supports the original 2010 French Prairie “Rural Reserve” designation. Wilsonville opposes efforts to overturn a thorough, two-year-long public-input process that resulted in reserve agreements with Clackamas County, Metro, and the City of Wilsonville to protect the high-value farmlands of French Prairie.”

The League believes that SB 186 subverts the local land use planning process. We will continue to oppose bills of this nature that seek favors for certain landowners through legislative action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Marge Easley in black ink.

Marge Easley
LWVOR Natural Resources Specialist