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Kathryn Harrington, Metro Council
Tom Brian, Washington County
Jeff Cogen, Multnomah County
Martha Schrader, Clackamas County

Dear Steering Committee Chairs:

We wish to express our serious concern regarding the composition of the Reserves Steering Committee, established pursuant to enactment of SB 1011. We believe the Reserves Steering Committee must include additional representation from natural resource industries, if the committee hopes to produce fair, balanced and informed recommendations that consider the needs and interests of all principal stakeholder communities.

As you know, Oregon's natural resources community is diverse and complex, consisting of woodlot owners and numerous farms, large and small, which produce a dizzying array of commodities. Farmers and ranchers in the three counties of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington sold \$795.5 million (in 2006) of agricultural goods.

Unfortunately, no single person can represent the interests of all rural landowners, farmers and woodlot owners and the many downstream businesses that rely on these rural interests. Consequently, we are troubled that Steering Committee would establish a process to discuss land use policy for rural areas, while providing only a single seat for the largest community of landowners within the three county's political jurisdiction. The decision to under-represent natural resource industries on the committee risks a failure of process. If the steering committee generates recommendations in opposition to the interests of natural resource industries, then Metro and tri-county area has little defense against public complaints that the committee's composition was intended to generate just such an outcome. You can't have a fair and balance committee, without fair and balanced representation.

The support of rural interests was instrumental in the passage of SB 1011. To exclude those same interests from participating in the discussion of urban and rural reserves within the Metro area threatens to undermine the credibility of the steering committee's recommendations. Accordingly, we urge inclusion of additional natural resource representatives to the steering committee.

We commend the members of the steering committee for their hard work and look forward to rolling up our sleeves and finish the process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Stone
Oregon Association
of Nurseries

Shawn Cleave
Oregon Farm Bureau
Federation

Ray Wilkinson
Oregon Forest
Industries Council