



*Protecting Our Natural Heritage
From the Coast to the Cascades*

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16 March 2010

Springfield Planning Commission
City of Springfield
225 Fifth Street
Springfield, OR 97477

Lane County Planning Commission
Lane County
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Re: Draft Springfield 2030 Refinement Plan

Dear Springfield and Lane County Planning Commissioners:

The city of Springfield lies between two first class rivers and is surrounded by the mountains that replenish them. The lands through which its rivers flow have cultivated some of the most productive soils in the world, and its streams, riparian corridors and wetlands support a rich diversity of wildlife. They are precious assets, not liabilities. Reserving these irreplaceable resources as farmland and natural areas will serve as an antidote to water degradation and depletion, peaked oil and climate change, allowing the full- scale local food production and distribution essential to food security as well as long-term employment. These lands should be considered constrained only in the sense that they must be protected, not squandered by faulty and ill-advised assumptions regarding job density and the acreage and locations required to achieve it.


Willamette Valley advocate for 1000 Friends, Mia Nelson, and Oregon Farm Bureau treasurer and former Lane County Planning Commissioner, George Grier, have offered thorough and compelling analyses of and remedies for Springfield's flawed EOA. It would be tedious and unnecessary to reiterate these responses. Therefore, suffice to say that, on behalf of LandWatch Lane County, a non-profit dedicated to protecting Lane County's farms, forests and natural areas from sprawl and other impacts, I whole-heartedly support their conclusions and recommendations. Their analyses of Springfield's own assumptions and data clearly indicate that ample land exists within Springfield's present UGB to satisfy its projected employment needs.

In any living organism normal physical growth occurs within certain parameters. Growth outside of those limits leads to sickness and death. By contrast qualitative internal development is limited only by one's intelligence, experience and imagination. Springfield

has chosen to decouple itself from its sister city, Eugene. Now, then, is the time to look inward toward Glenwood and east Main, toward Sony and a myriad other sites that offer redevelopment opportunities to create an environmentally sustainable, economically viable, singular Springfield identity.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Robert Emmons
President, LandWatch Lane County