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Springfield Testimony March 16. 2030 growth planning Tom Bowerman

1. I am here to comment because I have received notice of impact to my land – I speak personally and an authorized spokesman for other family members also received notice on other parcels. This represents a cumulative total of over 400 acres of land.

2. First, I will say I have read the detailed response from 1000 Friends of Oregon, and I go on record as concurring with those comments and will not repeat any of those observations and recommendations.

I offer several credentials for the comments I wish to make.

a. I grew up here and have deep roots. I am a fifth generation Oregonian. Sixty three years here.

b. I have a degree in Architecture and planning sub-major. I am a lifelong observer of social relationships to the built environment.

c. I understand that we have some differing views of growth and development. Lately there has been considerable rethinking of the "bigger is better" model. More people yearn for more socially functional neighborhoods and communities.

4. Perhaps you noted the Register Guard reprint from the New York Times several weeks ago discussing Detroit's conversion of sprawling derelict and underutilized urban lands to farmland and openspace. It's an expensive proposition, but they really have no choice. It's more expensive than not sprawling in the first place. It is better to hold what is cherished in the first place than try to recreate it after it's damaged.

5. Steve Cornacchia, arguing for urban growth expansion 20 years ago stated in public session that he "didn't want to see his grandchildren grow up in letters". By this he meant he thought lack of economic opportunity here would cause his children to move elsewhere, so he'd only know about his grandchildren through correspondence. I mean to ask how this has worked out for him. Speaking for myself, my two sons have moved to smaller communities **Oakridge & Corvallis** because they don't care for the congestion and large impersonal character of Springfield and Eugene. They seek to conduct dignified lives rooted in a community of personal scale. That's my loss. Not everyone seeks more sprawl and congestion, some people move elsewhere to avoid it. It's crossed my mind, although my roots are very deep here.

6. I observe and read about the difficulties of maintaining Springfield's downtown as a vibrant center. Observe, if you will, another city of Springfield's size – Corvallis. I invite you to walk the Corvallis downtown, can compare. Note the vibrant locally owned businesses which line the streets, the people traffic, the pleasant places to eat and shop. Consider that this did not happen by accident but through different public policy. Corvallis has proactively restrained the urge to sprawl horizontally, while Springfield has taken a different path. We will continue to see lowered property values and vacant stores if we push ever outwards on prime resource lands. The same applies to maintaining streets and other infrastructure – we could choose to focus on taking better care of what we have than building on the green fields. Building community, not sprawl.

7. I urge you to join others in rethinking the consumption ethic where bigger is always better. I urge you to consider where past decisions have left us today. I urge you to realize that we're all in this together. You owe it to your citizens and neighbors to do a better job in addressing growth and development than simply pushing out the boundary once again.

Thanks you for your attention.