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July 30, 2015

Mayor and City Council
Medford, Or 97501

MEDFORD UGB AMENDMENT

Dear Mayor and City Council:

By the way of introduction, I am Carl Bartlett a former member and chair of the Planning Commission and chair of Medford's Southeast Medford Advisory Committee. To begin, in 1988 the City of Medford undertook studies to satisfy future urbanization needs for additional land to be included in the Urban Growth Boundary which was last amended in the early 1990's.

After the last UGB amendment, City officials (including members of its City Council and Planning Commission) worked together planning the area then included. The plans included those for land use, circulation and urban design. The planning concepts that came from the Southeast Advisory Committee were later incorporated into Medford's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code and the Planning Commission was a party to all the planning efforts.

One of the key purposes of the Southeast Plan was to preserve the natural waterways and other drainage courses and to provide needed paths for pedestrians and bicycle travel. The shared greenway pedestrian/bicycle paths are essential in providing linkages between the existing Southeast Area and its commercial center to central Medford and the Bear Creek Greenway. The City Council has recently invested municipal funds in the acquisition of land adjoining Larson Creek which will connect the multi-use paths to the Bear Creek Greenway.

The inclusion of additional land in the Southeast Area will afford greenway path connections all the way to the City's new Chrissy Park and beyond to Prescott Park where new trails will connect to the numerous paths and trails that exist in Prescott Park's 1,740 acres.

I urge the City Council to consider including additional land in Medford's Southeast Area to keep expanding what has become Medford's finest place to live. In doing so, Medford will be able to serve several hundred acres with sanitary sewer and generate substantial systems development charges that will help finance needed improvements to Medford's public sanitary sewer system.

Very truly yours

Carl Bartlett



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