

Measure 37

Proposed by initiative petition to be voted on at the General Election, November 2, 2004.

Ballot Title:

GOVERNMENTS MUST PAY OWNERS, OR FORGO ENFORCEMENT, WHEN CERTAIN LAND USE RESTRICTIONS REDUCE PROPERTY VALUE

RESULT OF "YES" VOTE: "Yes" vote requires that governments pay owners, or forgo enforcement by repealing, changing, not applying restrictions, when certain land use restrictions reduce owners' property value.

Argument in Opposition to Ballot Measure 37

Dear Oregon Taxpayer,

My name is Pete Sorenson, an elected Lane County Commissioner. I grew up in Coos County, graduated from the University of Oregon, ran a private law firm, and served as an elected Oregon State Senator. **As a County Commissioner, I am deeply involved in the administration of Oregon's land use laws. These laws, some of the most progressive in the United States, are crucial to maintaining our environment and high quality of life. It is from my experience working with these laws as a former practicing attorney and as a former State Senator, that I oppose this ballot measure.**

Passing this measure will cost Oregon taxpayers money and hurt farmers. To comply with the measure it will cost Oregon taxpayers up to \$344 million annually. These costs will result from increased government employees to research and process claims and from increased costs of litigation.

This measure provides no new sources of revenue to pay for the land. Because this ballot measure does not provide revenue, cities and counties will be forced to make cuts in places like law enforcement, drug rehabilitation, and education. With the recent cutbacks to local and state budgets, we cannot afford these cuts.

This measure means more litigation and lawsuits. The Attorney General's office has warned of "uncertainties" and ambiguities in the bill. These "uncertainties" mean more lawsuits that will cost the public money and time that could be spent in other more productive ways.

Passing measure 37 means more taxes, more red tape, and more lawsuits. Please join me in voting NO on Measure 37.

Thank you,
Pete Sorenson

PS - If you have any questions about the seriousness of this measure and why I oppose it, please contact me PO Box 10836, Eugene, Oregon 97440.

(This information furnished by Peter Sorenson.)