



## *Committee for Citizen Involvement*

OSU Extension Service  
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June 28, 2011

Dear Chair Duyck and County Commissioners:

At the May 2011 Washington County CCI meeting representatives voted to support the request to pursue the Cedar Creek feasibility study to explore options for governance to urban unincorporated areas. The CCI shares your interest to continue the dialogue regarding future service provision for unincorporated urban residents and wishes to be a partner in that effort. CCI members are aware of the constraints upon the General Fund and received from Bob Davis at their June meeting a copy of the General Fund estimated revenues and expenditures through 2014. We realize that these are difficult times and appreciate your decision to fund an independent survey seeking information from unincorporated residents regarding their preferences for services and willingness to provide additional revenue to support those services. We look forward to learning of the results of that survey work. In addition, CCI representatives look forward to learning from the Aloha-Reedville Study as that process moves forward.

When communities need to determine whether to incorporate, to annex, or to continue as an unincorporated area, the residents and city leaders need factual information. The population of much of our unincorporated areas is well educated and accustomed to making decisions based on data. Feasibility studies provide the data residents and city governments need in order to make intelligent decisions.

The timely editorial in the June 25<sup>th</sup> Oregonian makes this point: it is time for Washington County to devote effort to planning for the long-term stability and sustainability of the urban unincorporated area (UUA). For this reason, we urge you to work with A City by Choice, the CCI and other partners to find grant funding to conduct this feasibility study. We recognize that this will require an allocation of County staff time and some amount of matching funds to obtain funding and complete a study. Despite the costs we feel it is a critical tool to help the County's residents find appropriate solutions for an economically feasible way to achieve the desired provision of services. The CCI looks forward to working with you on developing community education strategies and policies for providing services to the unincorporated areas.

### ***STEERING COMMITTEE***

*Bruce Bartlett*

*Jim Long*

*Henry Oberhelman*

*Dick Smith*

*Pat Van Dyke*

Sincerely,

Washington County Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI)