To the staff of the Coos County Planning Department:

We received your notice regarding land use proposals. I have some concerns I would like to express regarding the amendments you are proposing.

Firstly, please consider the fact that Psalm 24:1 states “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” God’s plan is for the earth He made to be inhabited. Isaiah 45:18 says “For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD, and there is none else. Also Psalm 115:16 says “The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD’s: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.”

When God brought the children of Israel into the promised land, He was careful to be sure the land was divided into portions for each of the tribes of Israel. Each tribe then divided up their inheritance into portions of inheritance for each family unit. These were very well guarded by the families. If their land was sold, it was to be redeemed at the year of jubilee, so each family would retain their inheritance. Joshua 13:14,33; Ezekiel 44: 15, 23, 24, 28; Joshua 13, 14, 33; Numbers 36:2-7. The great city of God was given cities to dwell in which were scattered among the other tribes.

Princes and rulers were not to oppress the people nor seize their inheritance. When King Ahab of Israel wanted to buy the vineyard of Naboth, he would not sell it to him because it was the inheritance of his fathers. “And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.” 1 Kings 21:3. King Ahab’s wife, Jezebel, arranged for the murder of Naboth, and the stealing of his vineyard. King Ahab then went to possess the vineyard which had been obtained by robbery and murder. The prophet Elijah was sent by God to meet him and pronounce to Him God’s judgement on his actions. “And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.” 1 Kings 21:19

Ezekiel 46:18 says, “Moreover the prince shall not take of the people’s inheritance by oppression, to thrust them out of their possession; but he shall give his sons inheritance out of his own possession: that my people be not scattered every man from his possession.”

Ezekiel 45:7-10 says, “And a portion shall be for the prince on the one side and on the other side of the oblation of the holy portion, and of the possession of the city, before the oblation of the holy portion, and before the possession of the city, from the west side westward, and from the east side eastward: and the length shall be over against one of the portions, from the west border unto the east border. In the land shall be his possession in Israel! and my princes shall no more oppress my people; and the rest of the land shall they give to the house of Israel according to their tribes. Thus saith the Lord GOD; Let it suffice you, O princes of Israel: remove violence and spoil, and execute judgment and justice, take away your exactions from my people, saith the Lord GOD. Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath.”
I am concerned that the policies you are proposing are violating the principle of private property ownership which is an established principle of the Creator God. Can you take the private property of people and use it for utility lines, roads, or any other use without the signature and consent of the owners? Is this not stealing the land of the people? Can you take their land for parking, roads, and your own uses, or affect the way they may use their property and the value of their property without this being an oppression of the people? Will not God see this? I encourage you to have a healthy fear of the LORD, the Creator, for your own sakes.

In addition to this, the 5th amendment of the Bill of Rights states "... nor private property be taken for public use without just compensation." Certainly just compensation of any kind must needs include foreknowledge and consent to the use of the property by the owners of that property.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. As public servants answerable to God for the stewardship of your public office, I urge you to consider these principles for the benefit of yourselves, and those you serve.

Sincerely,

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