

Councilor President Falconer and Councilor Batey,

Thank you for your letter dated July 9, 2020 to the Board of County Commissioners. In the letter you share your concerns regarding urban service delivery for unincorporated areas like Jennings Lodge and Oak Grove and increasing county budget constraints.

As I'm sure you know, incorporation efforts in this area have been discussed by community members and the commissioners many times over the last 10 years. While there are various thoughts on this issue, one thing the Board has agreed on is that it is necessary that this be a grass roots, community led initiative. The commissioners will not decide or make changes to the local governance structure for the many residents of these communities. The County has committed to assisting the community in their endeavor when they are ready to move forward.

The Board looks forward to reviewing any incorporation proposals and remaining engaged as we all look to the future of the unincorporated areas. Until then we will continue to provide necessary services and programs to all county constituents to the best of our ability. We appreciate knowing city partners, such as yourselves, are engaged in this discussion and we will continue to follow these activities together.

Sincerely,

Jim Bernard, Chair
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners