

## Bryan Colbourne - Fwd: Testimony on Land Use Actions, Case Number CA16-04

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**From:** Amber Mathiesen  
**To:** Bryan Colbourne  
**Date:** 10/19/2016 4:28 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Testimony on Land Use Actions, Case Number CA16-04

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Amber Mathiesen  
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 City of Salem  
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>>> Smiths <happytrailssmith@usfamily.net> 10/19/2016 4:23 PM >>>  
 To Salem City Council      Rainbow Bridge

I am a great-grandson of Oregon pioneers, but I have only lived in Salem for thirty-five years. The first house I owned in Salem was close to the center of the city of Salem's logo star. Among other employment in Salem, I refurbished buildings next to the "Founded" sign on property that once held Salem's first house at 950 Broadway, and others within a stone's throw.

My own house was reflective of the pre-auto times with the garage separate and behind the house. Sensible for stabling a horse and carriage and the resulting smell and insects. You can drive around Salem's star and see the development spurts as that architecture prevailed mirroring the times: Big old houses on large lots interspersed with smaller "affordable housing."

The GI Bill after the war shifted that model as developers saw how much material would be saved by an attached garage, on a smaller lot, for higher prices, to meet demand. First, it was just a one car garage in a circle within the star. Then, more and more garages as the economy grew. Yet another band development around the city center. Real estate prices spiraled to meet demand. It was fine as long as the realtors' song of "Land, land, lots of land..." continued business as usual.

Ultimately that monster in the "Yellow Submarine" that ate all the other monsters could be seen on our disappearing horizon. Sensible Land Use planning was enacted to check the monster before it ate us and itself.

Fast forward to today's growth spurts. McMansions on smaller lots with multiple garages. The development lobby is ignoring the pleas of a conscientious community. **Expanding the urban growth boundary for a rainbow bridge to a pot of gold on the West side is the American dream of unlimited greed.**

"When will they ever learn, when will they ever learn?"

My great-grandfather followed the Westward Ho anthem. Cultural metaphors abound. **The third bridge is an oversold boondoggle sold to a blindsided public.** Times have changed. *Business as usual has to be modified by reality if we are to survive at all.*

Cy Smith  
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