

J4J

JEFFERSONIANS FOR JEFFERSON

"Promoting Honesty, Openness, Fairness, and Common Sense"

July 14, 2016

PRESS RELEASE:

CITY OF JEFFERSON RESIDENTS TO CHALLENGE OREGON HOME RULE RESTRICTIONS

Several citizens of Jefferson, Oregon, a small community nestled between Albany and Salem have galvanized into a grassroots group which is not only challenging SB 1573, but its own city council, which appears ready to annex a 15 acre piece of farmland. The landowner was denied annexation by a vote in 2010 but the Oregon Legislature's passage of SB 1573 last March has breathed new life into the issue, allowing landowners to avoid the people most affected by uncontrolled annexations.

Jeffersonians for Jefferson (J4J), starting with only 4 interested homeowners, has now grown to include over 40 of its residents in taking on what is an unconstitutional law which removed the citizens' right to vote on annexations, a right which is included in the town's charter as well as in the Oregon Constitution under home rule. The city of Corvallis has already begun a legal action to challenge SB 1573, but Jefferson is the first small town (3100 residents) to take on the task of reclaiming home rule for its residents. J4J is appearing as the tip of the spear on the issue of the citizens right to vote.

"We just feel that on matters of this importance, the voice of the citizenry should be heard when it comes to converting cropland into homes, with all the attendant increases in police, fire, schools, water and sewer services bring with such rapid growth," said Bob Burns, the Chairman of J4J. "Our own city council is on the verge of approving this annexation, rather than defend Jefferson's city charter. We're either a democracy or we're not." he added.

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