

Argument in favor of the Hills of Neskowin (HON) withdrawal from the Neskowin Regional Sanitary Authority NRSA

The HON is a subdivision on the east side of Highway 101 a mile north of Neskowin village. In the more than 20 years that the HON has been under development we have received no service from the NRSA. Moreover, we neither need nor desire to receive service from NRSA.

All homes built in the HON have installed state of the art septic systems at considerable costs to each homeowner. These homeowners have had to pay the full cost of these septic systems without financial assistance from the NRSA while at the same time having been required to pay nearly \$100,000 in taxes to cover the costs of the service being provided to those homeowners who are served by the NRSA.

Among the NRSA's future projects is a 'Highway 101 Extension'. In 2015 that project was estimated to cost \$1.8 Million. In November 2016 the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners concluded that the extension was 'not feasible'.

Normally sanitary projects are approved provided the revenues available from the newly served area plus the existing rate base are adequate to support the project. If such projects 'do not pencil' they are not undertaken. While the NRSA has the legal authority to order residents to connect if they are within 200' of service, only 2 of the HON's 61 lots would be subject to such order.

'But we all pay for public schools whether we have children in the system or not. Shouldn't we all pay for sanitary systems as well?' A nice but inappropriate sentiment. It has long been recognized that revenues available from the student/parent base are not sufficient to pay for the construction, staffing and maintenance of K-12 public schools. Thus the obligation to pay was made general.

Special Districts – like water and sewer – are governed by other state laws (Oregon Revised Statutes - https://www.oregonlaws.org/oregon_revised_statutes). Both types of districts are supported by user revenues. Specifically in the case of sanitary districts:

“ORS 450.840 Costs for construction and operation of systems and general expenses of sanitary authority - how borne.

- (1) The cost of construction of a sewage disposal system, including treatment plants and trunk or lateral sewers, or a drainage system shall be borne by the area **directly** benefited by the system....
- (2) The cost of operation and maintenance of sewage disposal and drainage systems shall be the area **directly** benefited by such systems....”

In no sense of the word is the HON directly benefitted by the NRSA nor will it served by a 'Highway 101 Extension'. Please vote "YES"