



July 20, 2026

Marion County Board of Commissioners
555 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Appeal of Land Use Case No. 25-026, Burnham Property

Dear Chair & Members of the Board,

Springwood Acres is a family farm located on 84 acres in Multnomah County. We produce pasture-raised chicken eggs and raise Boer goats using regenerative farming practices. All of our livestock live on pasture year-round in mobile housing that is moved weekly onto fresh grass to maintain animal health, pasture quality, and soil productivity.

Our chickens are housed in two open-air barns measuring 20 feet by 60 feet. These barns are built on skids and have no floors. Our goat shelters are mounted on 18-foot running gears with openings in the floor. Because these structures are designed to move across the landscape, they can only be safely relocated over relatively even ground.

Maintaining even pasture is essential for protecting our livestock. When mobile housing is placed on uneven ground, gaps can form beneath the structures, allowing predators such as coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, and other wildlife to enter. We experienced the consequences of this firsthand in 2025 when uneven ground beneath Chicken House #2 created an opening that allowed predators to enter, resulting in the loss of 102 chickens in a single night. The financial loss to the farm exceeded \$4,000, in addition to the disruption of egg production and the loss of valuable livestock.

For the past 12 years, we have accepted clean fill to improve and level pasture areas throughout our farm, including material from vacuum trucks. During that same period, we have also accepted truckloads of wood chips, green waste, used gravel, asphalt grindings, logs, and recycled concrete. In many cases, we were paid tipping fees to accept these materials, creating an additional revenue stream while putting useful materials to productive agricultural use.

This practice is not unique our farm. I know of more than a dozen farms in the West Hills of Multnomah County that have been accepting these same types of materials for decades. It is a longstanding and common agricultural practice in this area. Nearly every farm in the West Hills has benefited from recycled materials in some form—whether it is a driveway surfaced with recycled aggregate from a nearby road project, farm roads lined with wood chips from local tree services, or topsoil brought in from a construction or development projects.

Modern farming requires creativity and careful financial management. As the cost of feed, equipment, fuel, labor, and other inputs continues to rise, farmers must find practical ways to solve operational challenges while generating supplemental income. Using clean fill to level pastures protects livestock and improves farm operations, while accepting appropriate recycled materials and tipping fees helps support the long-term financial sustainability of working farms. Like any other for-profit business, farms must continually seek cost-effective solutions and new sources of revenue.

The benefits of these practices extend beyond individual farms. Reusing clean materials diverts significant volumes of waste from landfills, reduces disposal costs for local businesses, supports the economic viability of existing farms, and keeps productive agricultural land in operation. These community benefits substantially outweigh concerns about occasional truck traffic raised by a small number of neighboring property owners. Oregon is a Right-to-Farm state, and activities that are normal and accepted agricultural practices should be recognized as an essential part of maintaining a healthy and sustainable farming community.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Reed', with a stylized, cursive script.

Scott Reed
Owner, Springwood Acres LLC
12424 NW Springville Road
Portland, OR 97229