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April 17, 2013

To: Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to SB 713

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony opposing SB 713, legislation to add yet another allowed use to the list of non-farm uses allowed on “exclusive” farm use lands. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that works with Oregonians to support livable urban and rural communities, protect family farms and forests, and provide transportation and housing choice.

Agriculture is Oregon's second largest industry: 1 out of 8 jobs in this state is agriculture-related, and the industry is directly and indirectly linked to about \$22 billion in sales of goods and services, accounting for 15% of the statewide total of sales involving all industry sectors. Agriculture is traded-sector – 80% is sold out of state with 40% exported out of the country, bringing new dollars into Oregon. And those figures have been increasing almost steadily for two decades, which is not a story any other industry can tell.

1000 Friends of Oregon believes that agricultural land should stay in agricultural use to support our second largest industry. Expanding the list of allowed uses on farm lands, including on high-value soils, does not serve the agricultural community and will result in taking more farm lands out of farm use. There are already over two dozen non-farm uses that are allowed as outright permitted uses on farm lands as well as over two dozen non-farm uses that are allowed on farm lands as conditional uses. Why is the list of nonfarm uses so long? Often it is because people come to the legislature to validate their illegally established uses. That is the case here.

While there are rural lands that make sense for this use, agricultural lands – especially since firearm ranges would even be allowed on high-value farm lands – are not the place, absent an exceptional<sup>1</sup> reason at a particular location.

For the reasons above, 1000 Friends of Oregon opposes SB 713.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven D. McCoy".

Steven D. McCoy  
Farm and Forest Staff Attorney

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<sup>1</sup> The exceptions process is exactly the correct path for approving such a use on farm lands.