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April 16, 2013

Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 538 - Opposition

Dear Committee Members,

Friends of Marion County, a 501(c)3 non-profit membership organization, opposes SB 538 and requests that this bill not be passed out of committee.

We oppose the measure considering the former history of M37/M49. Over 60% of voters of M49 agreed that farm and forest protections are necessary to the health and welfare of Oregonians. SB 538 negates that vote by providing exceptions from our statewide land use laws to any two counties and opens the door to future exceptions invoked by both the courts and legislative action.

We oppose the measure because groundwater availability may be effected that serves farmers and other users.

We oppose the measure because farms and forests adjacent to cities will be threatened by sprawling subdivisions and other development which threaten our transportation systems.

We oppose the measure because UGBs will be compromised. Subdivision, commercial, and industrial development outside of cities will become a threat to the availability of services to the current city residents.

We oppose the measure considering that the process under Exec. Order 12-07 is still ongoing and we do not yet know its impact.

These are but a few of the reasons this measure should not be passed out of your committee. Please vote "NO" and thanks for listening.

Sincerely,

Roger Kaye, President
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