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Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development  
State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

May 23, 2013

RE: Opposition to the proposed -1 amendments to HB 2898

Chair Hass and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony opposing the -1 amendments to HB 2898 to supersite new public safety training facilities on lands zoned for exclusive farm use (EFU). 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 Oregon's second largest industry. The -1 amendments would supersite up to 36 public safety training facilities on exclusive farm use lands outside of any current or proposed urban growth boundary (UGB) to the detriment of nearby agriculture. We oppose such an amendment.

The urban growth boundary is the center of Oregon's land use program. The UGB expansion process ensures that growth is planned for and fits in with nearby uses of land. When uses are supersited on EFU, not only is the land taken out of farm use, but there is also no assurance that the new use is needed or that it is compatible with neighboring uses. This result is haphazard growth that does not take into account what is best for either the agricultural economy or for nearby communities. For this reason, 1000 Friends opposes supersiting.

Supersiting also disadvantages other communities that may want the new facility and may have an ability to accommodate the facility within a current or planned UGB. Instead of competing on an even playing field and allowing growth to go to where it has been planned for, supersiting picks a winner even when the winner may be less prepared to integrate the new use into the community, either due to a lack of infrastructure or due to incompatible nearby uses. Supersiting creates an unfair playing field.

Finally, if the -1 amendment supersiting new facilities on farm lands were adopted it would disturb ongoing land use proceedings and litigation. Without a clear clause within the amendment excepting lands that are currently part of an ongoing land use decision or part of litigation of a land use decision, the amendment would act as a *fait accompli*.

For the reasons above, 1000 Friends of Oregon opposes changes to HB 2898 that would supersite a new use on EFU.<sup>1</sup>

Respectfully submitted,



Steven D. McCoy  
Farm and Forest Staff Attorney

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<sup>1</sup> We also note that it is not clear that the subject matter of such an amendment would fit into the relating clause of HB 2898.