



133 SW Second Ave, Suite 201 • Portland, OR 97204 • (503) 497-1000 • fax (503) 223-0073 • www.friends.org

Southern Oregon Office • PO Box 2442 • Grants Pass, OR 97528 • (541) 474-1155 • fax (541) 474-9389

Willamette Valley Office • PO Box 51252 • Eugene, OR 97405 • (541) 520-3763 • fax (503) 223-0073

Central Oregon Office • 115 NW Oregon Ave #21 • Bend, OR 97701 • (541) 719-8221 • fax (866) 394-3089

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

June 19, 2013

RE: Opposition to HB 3098-A

Co-Chair Edwards, Co-Chair Unger, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony opposing HB 3098-A, legislation to allow yet another non-farm use on exclusive farm use lands to the detriment of agriculture. 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 and the jobs it creates. Adding a new non-farm use on farm lands does not serve the agricultural community and will result in taking more farm lands out of farm use and the loss of farm jobs. 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. Cumulatively, these non-farm uses take large swaths of agricultural land out of production.

HB 3098-A is limited to Eastern Oregon. So why protect agriculture in what some consider an unproductive area or even a “barren wasteland”? It turns out that Eastern Oregon is not a barren wasteland. Much of it is very productive agricultural land. **Three of Oregon's top five producing agricultural counties are in Eastern Oregon.** The top five are Marion County at \$616.9 million, **Umatilla County at \$503.2 million, Morrow County at \$477.1 million,** Clackamas County at \$332.9 million, and **Malheur County at \$296.1 million.**

How is this possible? **Six of the eight highest grossing agricultural commodities in the state have a strong nexus to Eastern Oregon.** The top eight are **Cattle and Calves at \$779.8 million,** Nursery/Greenhouse at \$641.1 million, **Dairy at \$523.9 million, Wheat at \$521.5 million, Hay at \$413.6 million,** Grass seed at \$294.9 million, **Potatoes at \$165.2 million,** and **Onions at \$132.6 million.**

Agriculture is the economic engine of Eastern Oregon. To protect the agricultural economy in Eastern Oregon 1000 Friends of Oregon opposes HB 3098-A.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Steven D. McCoy
Farm and Forest Staff Attorney