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February 25, 2013

House Land Use Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2201 and HB 2202

Dear Committee Members:

Friends of Marion County is a non-profit 501(c)3 membership organization established in 1998 to protect farm and forest lands in Marion County. We support HB 2201 and HB 2202 in order to further protect the farmland resources we have and ask that you vote "YES".

Marion County's farmland resources are dwindling each year due to residential development. In order to provide construction concrete for this development the aggregate industry has demanded that extraction come from some of our best and most productive farmland in the Willamette Valley.

Other counties have even drawn their aggregate supply from Marion County going as far as moving it by rail from the north part of Marion County to Multnomah County. Why is this being done? We believe that they think it's cheaper to destroy productive farmland than gather aggregate in the areas closer to the need.

We support both HB 2201 and HB 2202 and ask that you vote "YES" because these bills will correct this misbehavior by requiring developers to look more closely at the sources available nearer the development.

Thanks for listening.

Roger Kaye, President
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