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February 4, 2014

House Committee on Rural Communities
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301

Re: Please Vote "NO" HB 4078

Dear Committee Members:

Our organization and its individual members are opposed to the current version of HB 4078, Metro UGB Expansion.

Friends of Marion County is a 501(c)3 farmland protection organization founded in 1998. Our mission is to protect farm and forestland, parks, and open space in Marion County.

Although Marion County is not within Metro's jurisdiction, some of Oregon's best farmland is within the French Prairie (Marion County) / Champoeg (Clackamas County) historic farmland region. It's important that these superb farmlands be protected from urban development.

We therefore oppose HB 4078.

In its current form, HB 4078 eliminates public participation by short circuiting public input. Legislative super-siting of the UGB process for 2000 acres in Washington County will only discourage public participation instead of encouraging that input. It's important to realize that public participation will be harmed when the Legislature bypasses the UGB process which has developed with its current policies and rules. If at every whim this process is bypassed then how is the public going to believe that their input is welcomed and valued.

We again want to emphasize our opposition to HB 4078.

Thanks for listening.

Roger Kaye, President
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