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February 3, 2014

House Rural Communities Committee

Re: "NO" on HB 4078

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

We, the Legislative Committee of the Marion County Democrats are asking that you reject HB 4078. It appears to us to be rewriting Oregon's land use laws.

This bill violates citizen participation both in what the bill does, but also with the speed this is being heard. A major problem with yearly sessions is that all bills are fair game, no matter how serious. Although lobbyists might have been involved with creating or condoning this bill, the public was left out.

HB 4078 is bad on many levels:

- 1. It destroys 2000 acres of land including several hundred acres of excellent Tualatin Valley farm land near the Helvetia area.
- 2. It sets a very dangerous precedent by bypassing the Oregon Court of Appeals where citizens have taken this case.
- 3. It super-sites instead of allowing the legal process to take its course.

Over the past several years, we have seen our precious land use laws being needlessly chipped away via exceptions and super-siting. We want that to stop.

We ask you to declare this HB 4078 dead.

Thank you for your concern.

Sincerely,

Gregg Moreland, Chair Legislative Committee

Marion County Democrats