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February 12, 2015

House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use, & Water
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Please Vote "YES" HB2633

Dear Chair Clem and Committee Members:

Our organization and its individual members support HB2633;
Goal 7 Rulemaking - Natural Hazards.

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.

I served on the Marion County Planning Commission when the "Geologically Hazardous Areas Overlay Zone" was developed and adopted by the Marion County Commission in 2002. The Marion County website states:

Marion County's Geologically Hazardous Areas program was created to implement certain goals and policies of the rural development section of the Marion County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 7 - Areas Subject to Natural Disasters and Hazards.

Marion County Code 17.182, (Rural Code's Geologically Hazardous Areas Overlay Zone) and 16.24 (Urban Code's Geologically Hazardous Areas Overlay Zone) outline the strategy for reviewing development applications for properties within identified slide hazard and excessive slope areas to address the risk that a proposed land use activity may adversely affect the stability and landslide susceptibility of an area. The provisions of these chapters are intended to manage the risk of a landslide within identified slide hazard and excessive slope areas by requiring geological and/or geotechnical reports, but not act as a guarantee that the landslide hazard risk will be eliminated.

Landslide hazard and excessive slope areas constitute geologically hazardous areas of special concern to residents of the county. The intent of Chapters 17.182 and 16.24 is to protect these hazard areas of the County by requiring professional evaluation and establishing requirements for development of sites which are identified in hazard areas, and thus promote the public health, safety, and welfare.

Marion County's website contains links to several code chapters, maps of the overlay zones, lists of consultants, guidelines for reports and peer reviews, and other pertinent resources.

<http://www.co.marion.or.us/PW/Planning/zoning/geohazard/default.htm>

Marion County has also developed a floodplain program. Details can be found at the following website:

<http://www.co.marion.or.us/PW/Planning/Floodplain+Program.htm>

Marion County has done a commendable job addressing Goal 7 issues, but there is more work to be done both here and in other counties. Earthquake readiness, emergency management, developer and logging practices, transportation, security, and other issues are yet to be addressed. By using a comprehensive Goal 7 framework, all Oregon counties will be able to plan for these important hazard issues and we all will be better off.

Again, we want to emphasize our support of HB2633.

Thanks for listening.

Roger Kaye, President
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Attachments:

Marion County Webpage
Marion County Overlay Zone Map