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February 23, 2015

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Please Vote "NO" SB 25

Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

Our organization and its individual members oppose SB 25; Relating to land use planning that does not comply with goals in rural counties with no population growth.

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 for two terms and I am currently President of Friends of Marion County. In 2010/2011 I was selected for the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) comprised of airport users, representative of local municipalities and concerned citizens reviewing the 10-Year Aurora Airport Master Plan.

We are opposed to this bill because it would suspend the land-use goals and allow eight Eastern Oregon counties to re-designate all resource lands. The impacts would be profound. Transportation planning, wildlife protections, farm- and forestland protection, and agriculture and forest related jobs would be adversely affected. During the "Great Recession," natural resource jobs survived while many urban area jobs were lost.

If this bill passes, we can expect to see farm- and forest-related jobs disappear and our statewide land-use system in jeopardy. That is why we oppose SB 25 and request a "NO" vote of the committee on this bill.

Thanks for listening.

Roger Kaye, President
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