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April 6, 2015

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

Re: Opposition to SB716 - Authorizes Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties each to designate one large-lot industrial reserve of 150 to 500 acres

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

Our organization and its individual members are opposed to SB716 and request a "NO" vote.

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.

There are several reasons we oppose this bill. We will list a few.

1. SB 716 is not needed because there is more than enough industrial land in the Metro area/northern Willamette valley. Metro's own studies (agreed to by industrial users) found a more than sufficient land supply in the UGB - including in large lots - for 20 years.

2. This bill will take land out of the base of Oregon's #2 *industry* - agriculture - for speculative uses that there is no need for. This threatens directly the French Prairie area of the Willamette Valley, which stretches into Marion County. This area contains some of the most productive soils in the world.

3. Designation of this area for urban industrial use will undermine the investment the public and private interests have put into industrial areas already inside UGBs - like Mill Creek in Salem.

SB716 takes irreplaceable farm land out of production, and unfairly undermines investments in other lands.

With the ongoing drought conditions, we need to preserve every acre of farm land possible.

SB716 is ill conceived and a real threat to Oregon's landscape. We therefore request a "NO" vote on this measure.

Thank you for your consideration.

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