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April 13, 2015

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

Re: Opposition to SB748 -

Authorizes local government to adopt exception to statewide land use goal without demonstrating that certain statutory standards for exception have been met for employment use that will create 10 or more new, full-time jobs for which salary or wage compensation is 400 percent or more of federal poverty level for family of four.

Applies to local government that has experienced sustained high unemployment or sustained population decline or has high poverty level. Defines terms.

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

Our organization and its individual members are opposed to SB748 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. SB611, recently signed by Governor Brown, grants a series of tax incentives to companies expanding in Oregon. That bill received wide support among the cities and counties in rural Oregon. That bill allowed The City of Prineville to attract a data center within its UGB. That bill promoted business opportunities without sacrificing farmland.

2. SB748 would provide an exception to land use goals that would break our land use goals established to protect farmland and the UGBs surrounding our rural

cities. This bill will take land out of the base of Oregon's #2 *industry* – agriculture.

3. SB748 does not provide any mechanism for validation and accountability that permanent jobs would be created and verified.

SB748 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.

SB748 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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