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February 1, 2016

Senate Committee on Human Services & Early Childhood
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to SB1575 - Directs Land Conservation and Development Commission to encourage local governments to dedicate land for affordable housing.

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

Our organization and its individual members are opposed to SB1575 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 1575 is not an affordable housing bill and is not needed. This bill short circuits the current process. Cities are already required to provide a 20-year land supply which incorporates all uses, including housing. This bill will have a significant negative impact on farm, forest, and resource lands.
2. SB 1575 will take land out of the base of Oregon's #2 *industry* – agriculture. Lands designated to come into UGBs must now be prioritized by quality. This bill does not allow for the protection of the best quality farmland.
3. SB 1575 ignores the important cost calculation of converting raw land to buildable land. This bill will not achieve its intended effect and will only lead to more valuable farmland converted to expensive homes.

SB1575 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.

Roger Kaye, President
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c: Senate President Peter Courtney