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February 8, 2016

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

Re: Opposition to HB 4079 - Directs Land Conservation and Development Commission to establish pilot program in which local governments may site and develop affordable housing.

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

Our organization and its individual members are opposed to HB4079 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. HB 4079 appears to be an affordable housing bill but will not likely lead to any affordable housing being built. 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. HB 4079 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 quality farmland.

3. HB 4079 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 conversions of valuable farmland.

HB 4079 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