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March 13, 2017

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

Re: **Opposition to HB2893** - Requires city to evaluate for inclusion in urban growth boundary agricultural land consisting predominantly of certain soil classifications with other first priority lands. Directs Land Conservation and Development Commission to establish by rule certain prioritization of lands for urban reserve designation.

Opposition to HB2894 - Permits cities to determine likelihood of development or redevelopment of land during review or evaluation of comprehensive plan or urban growth boundary expansion. Permits cities to modify analysis for determination of 20-year buildable land supply to account for land determined unlikely to be developed or redeveloped. Applies to periodic reviews, legislative reviews and land evaluations commenced on or after effective date of Act.

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

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.

Our organization and its individual members are opposed to HB2893 and HB2894 and request a "NO" vote since these bills would be a major negative change to our land use system.

There are many reasons we oppose these bills. We will list a few.

1. HB2893 removes the distinction between irrigated and non-irrigated lands and therefore allows for development by soil type alone. This places higher value soils in Eastern Oregon at risk for development.
2. HB2994 allows development outside current non-Metro UGBs even though those cities may have an excess of buildable lands.

HB2893 and HB2894 are ill conceived and a real threat to Oregon's landscape. We therefore request a "NO" vote on these measures.

Thank you for your consideration.

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