April 5, 2017

House Committee on Transportation Policy State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3231

Dear Chair McKeown and Committee members:

I am frankly appalled by this bill's arrogance and by its disrespect for previous hard work and compromise. HB3231 overrides the designation of rural reserves which Metro and three counties, along with farmers, worked very long and hard to choose and protect. HB 3231 authorizes cities and counties to use eminent domain for tollways on EFU land. For 40 years we have been protecting EFU land and it remains so vital. In my county, Marion, agriculture is the number one industry, and in the state it is the second largest. Creating roads through farmland inevitably inevitably leads to more buildup of houses and non farm uses. Although there is no route described in the bill HB3231 will eventually that route will connect to I-5 probably near St. Paul and Donald in the rich French Prairie area. Four years ago a similar bill had hundreds of opposing signatures in this area.

Please vote no on HB 3231.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Carl