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February 15, 2017

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to HB2144 - Permits owner of land to continue nonconforming land use if owner provides evidence that use qualified for all permits and approvals required by law when use commenced

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 HB2144 and request a "NO" vote.

We urge that HB2144 be rejected by the committee because this bill represents a return to Measure 37 policies which the legislature rejected.

There are many reasons we oppose this bill. We will list a few.

1. HB2144 attempts to help one or a few property owners by circumventing long established law and policies. This practice of creating law or rule to assist an individual client sets a bad precedent in the legislature.
2. HB2144 passage would have unintended consequences. Illegal or improper uses are perhaps more common than reported. This bill would give an avenue of credibility to these practices.
3. HB2144 passage would leave a very bad impression on Oregon citizens that anyone could pull strings to get their way with a unique bill. This practice is callous and leaves the perception that it's "who you know" rather than "what's right" for our state.

HB2144 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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