



February 15, 2017

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
State Capitol 900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301
RE: HB 2144 – Legislation addressing nonconforming uses

Senator Clem and Members of the Committee,

We, the executive board of Friends of Polk County, appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2144. We agree that there are many existing non-conforming uses that would not be allowed today and affirm the proposed requirement that "a property owner show that all permits and approvals required at the time of commencement (of the use) were obtained".

On the other hand the proposed section allowing property owners to show that they could have obtained the required permits at the time they commenced the use but chose not to is not acceptable. It is rewarding non-compliance and could be used in unacceptable ways going forward. If this section were eliminated we could give HB 2144 our approval.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely yours,

Tremaine Arkley, President
Sarah Deumling, Vice-President
Karen Farmer, Secretary
Pat Wheeler, Treasurer