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February 20, 2017

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

Re: **Opposition to HB2106** - Makes various changes to laws relating to mining and mineral resources. Exempts certain small mining operations from exclusion certificate requirement. Exempts surface mining operations or exploration activities on federal lands from state bonding requirements if in compliance with federal financial guarantee requirements. Modifies certain permitting fees related to mining operations. Prohibits motorized in-stream placer mining in indigenous anadromous salmonid habitat and waters essential to recovery and conservation of Pacific lamprey, with certain exceptions.

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 HB2106 and request a "NO" vote since this bill would be a major negative change to our land use system.

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

1. HB2106 returns us to a time when gravel mining operations were unregulated by outright permitting this use on EFU land.
2. HB2106 removes local control by eliminating the conditional use process that reveals adverse effects on neighbors.
3. HB2106 tells our citizens that gravel mining is farming. Just like solar arrays are not "solar farms", gravel pits are not "gravel farms".
4. Once aggregate is mined, the farm land is gone forever.

HB2106 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 | Friends of Marion County | (503)743-4567 | rkaye2@gmail.com