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February 21, 2018

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

Re: No on HB 4031 Spot-Zoning on French Prairie Foundation Farmland (Red Barn)

Dear Senator Dembrow 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 oppose spot-zoning in Clackamas County, French Prairie Foundation Farmland.

We are hearing that someone is trying to amend HB 4031 to include an amendment as a special favor for someone who wants to store cars on land zoned for farming. There are many reasons we oppose this idea. We will list a few.

1. Significant portions of French Prairie Foundation Farmland are found in northern Marion County.
2. Spot-Zoning in French Prairie Foundation Farmland is contrary to the legislative intent agreed to by three counties in Metro which settled on the designations of Urban and Rural Reserve lands.
3. When the three Metro counties agree to the Rural/Urban Reserve "Grand Bargain" they should expect that their agreement would withstand this kind of pressure to undercut them. What would happen to future agreements when the counties see the legislature undercutting their carefully crafted plans?
4. Converting EFU to Urban use can break the important infrastructure support to a regional farming base. When conversions of this type occur, a slow and steady erosion of the regional farming base occurs. Seed cleaning, farm warehouse, fertilizer and chemical sales depend on a strong customer base. When farmland is lost to urban use, service to local farmers can disappear. This will increase transportation and farm labor costs.

Please reject this proposal and support Oregon's land-use system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roger Kaye, President
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