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February 5, 2019

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

Re: Support of HB 2225 - Defines "center of the subject tract" for siting certain permissible forest dwellings. Prohibits forest dwellings that would not have been permitted before January 1, 1993, or are sited in fire hazard or groundwater limited areas. Exempts state, agencies and counties from paying compensation to owners for restricting residential use of private property in adopting and implementing prohibitions.

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 support HB 2225 and request a "YES" vote since this bill would be a major positive change to our land use system.

There are many reasons we support this bill. Here are a few:

1. HB 2225 will not have a significant fiscal impact to our land use system.
2. HB 2225 protects state and local governments from paying compensation after adopting this measure.
3. HB 2225 restricts residential housing into rural areas which may be groundwater limited and at fire risk.
4. HB 2225 protects large blocks of forestland by preventing fragmentation.
5. HB 2225 protects rural land from other conditional uses normally associated with residential development.
6. HB 2225 clarifies ORS 215.750 to close loopholes keeping citizens in confusion about development near them.

HB 2225 is well conceived and a real benefit to Oregon's landscape. We therefore request a "YES" vote on this measure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roger Kaye, President | Friends of Marion County  
(503)743-4567 | rkaye2@gmail.com