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February 28, 2019

House Committee On Energy and Environment
900 Court St, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2329 EFSC Jurisdiction on Energy Facilities

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Roger Kaye, current President of Friends of Marion County. 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 opposes this proposal for the following reasons:

1. Protection of High-value farmland is a top priority and this bill would undercut those protections. While we are most concerned about high-value farmland, we are also concerned about the conversion of other farmland, including high-quality grazing land, grape-growing land and dry land wheat lands, for energy development.
2. Marion County established a work group and decided that the protection of HVF and solar power generation were incompatible on these lands.
3. The LCDC compromised by permitting solar arrays on lower class soils while protecting Class I, II, Prime and Unique soils.
4. LCDC also permitted Dual-use arrays/farming which expands the footprint to 20 acres on lower class soils.
5. Our organization has been active in several recent issues in Marion County and in our estimation Marion County even with a 2017-2018 budget of \$450MM, is not in the position to deal with all of the conflicts that EFSC would be able to address in a permitting process.
6. At the time of the Enron debacle, we testified in Marion County about a proposed gas-fired power plant. It was very clear that EFSC was well positioned to manage this application. Marion County, without the necessary resources could not accomplish this process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roger Kaye, President
Friends of Marion County
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