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June 7, 2023

House Committee on Rules
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote "NO" on HB 3414 -17 Amendment

To: House Committee on Rules

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice-Chair Kropf and Members of the Committee:

Friends of Marion County (FoMC) is an independent 501(c)(3) farmland protection organization founded in 1998. Our mission is to protect farm and forestland, parks, and open space in Marion County.

There are so many reasons the House Rules Committee should reject the -17 Amendment and I will list just a few here.

1. Marion County small cities, Turner and Aurora, have in recent years successfully expanded their UGBs according to existing law under Goal 14. These expansions occurred in a reasonable timeframe and offered several types of housing opportunities.
2. The -17 Amendment ignores the work these cities have done to comply with Goal 14 and allows these two cities the legal right to expand onto new resource lands requiring new taxpayer funded infrastructure. In these two cases the adopted infrastructure planning would become obsolete and these cities would be required to adopt new plans, perhaps wasting even more taxpayer dollars.
3. The -17 Amendment harms resource lands adjacent to both large and small cities. There are more than 60 non-farm uses that threaten our dwindling supply of farm and forest lands. Our farming community is fighting inflation in seed, chemical, equipment and labor costs. The -17 Amendment adds the cost of land acquisition to the mix.

I hope this letter provides an important view of the proposal and that the House Committee on Rules will reject the -17 Amendment.

Thank you for listening.
Roger Kaye, President
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