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Committee: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Topic: HB1453

*The interests of Oregon for today and in the future must be protected from the grasping wastrels of the land. We must respect another truism - that unlimited and unregulated growth, leads inexorably to a lowered quality of life.*

Tom McCall

As usual, Tom McCall said it best when he worried that, without adequate protection, the "grasping wastrels of the land" could very well be the undoing of the renowned Oregon Land Use system that protects some of the best farmland in the world. HB 1453 would allow all that Oregonians value about the state to be destroyed by investors, developers, and scores of outside interests.

This bill does *nothing* to address whatever fine-tuning might be needed to improve the working of legitimate farm stands around the state. HB1453 is a bulldozer called in to fill a small gopher hole in a farmers' field.

HB1453 is supported by all the same actors who, last year, *opposed* the work of LCDC's rulemaking committee. Through a campaign of misinformation, they, and an assortment of speculators destroyed LCDC's work that might have actually addressed their supposed grievances. It is clear from their support of HB 1453 that these special interest groups don't want to fix anything. They want to destroy the agricultural underpinnings of Oregon's world-famous land-use laws.

As an owner of over 180 acres of farm and forestland in Yamhill County, I urge you to protect the farmers from the "grasping wastrels of the land" who are behind this misguided bill.

Please vote no on HB 1453