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May 22, 2019

House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use  
State Capitol  
Salm, OR 97301

Re: SB 943

1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that has worked with Oregonians for more than 40 years to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice.

We urge you to not move SB 943 forward. The bill would allow a parsonage dwelling on exclusive farm use (EFU) land, where a place of worship is allowed. This provides yet another way to locate a non-farm dwelling on EFU land, increasing conflicting uses with farming activities. It is also inconsistent with ORS 215.283 and ORS 215.213, which allow only churches and cemeteries in conjunction with churches on EFU lands.

SB 943's only restriction on the dwelling location is it try to avoid high value farm land. This is not a meaningful constraint. Moreover, there is no requirement for a showing that the parsonage dwelling is even needed, creating a potentially large path to locating dwellings on EFU land.

If a parsonage is needed, there is an existing path to locate one, which does take into account the impact on nearby farmland and activities. The place of worship can apply for a nonfarm dwelling or an exception to Goal 3. Both these processes take into consideration the impacts of a nonfarm use on adjacent farming neighbors.

SB 943 is not necessary. We urge you to not support it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Mary Kyle McCurdy  
Deputy Director