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March 13, 2023

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources,
and Water
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR, 97301

To: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources,
and Water

RE: "Yes" on HB 3366 - Appropriates moneys to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for deposit in Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for hiring related to Oregon agricultural heritage programs. Appropriates moneys to board for deposit in Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for purposes related to grant programs.

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, 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.

FARMLAND UNDER THREAT

With the ending of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions Marion County has experienced a flood of applications. Since Marion County is considered to have some of the most productive agricultural lands in Oregon, the county has been the focus of conversion of this farmland to non-farm uses. Among the applications are home occupations, non-farm and farm dwellings, conditional use applications for many other uses including temporary hardship dwellings, dog boarding and training facilities, educational experience centers, solar energy facilities, and many others.

Sullivan and Eber's article in the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review lists the non-farm uses from 1963-2009.¹

1000 Friends of Oregon in its June 2020 report, Death by 1000 Cuts: A 10-Point Plan to Protect Oregon's Farmland, has outlined conditional uses and other applications which are harmful to the preservation of farmland.²

HB 3366 WILL HELP TO PROTECT FARMLAND

1. A Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Oregon Farm Bureau, Ducks Unlimited, Oregon Association of Nurseries, 1000 Friends of Oregon, and others support HB 3366.
2. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund (OAHF) will secure \$10 Million for grants and \$800,000 for program administration focused on working lands.
3. Data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows that Oregon lost 340,000 acres from agricultural production from 2012-2017.
4. In American Farmland Trust's business as usual projection, Oregon could lose up to 109,000 acres of agricultural land between 2016-2040.
5. The 2023 Legislative Session has introduced a number of measures that threaten farmland, notably SB 4, which will add several thousands of additional acres to the urban landscape.
6. If implemented, OAHF will help to protect farmland that might become urbanized.

So please vote **"YES"** on HB 3366 to protect some of our farmlands from urbanization.

Thanks so much for listening.

Roger Kaye, President
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1. Summary of Uses Allowed in EFU Zones, Appendix 1, pgs. 63-69, Farmland Protection in Oregon 1961-2009, THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD: FARMLAND PROTECTION IN OREGON 1961 – 2009, SAN JOAQUIN AGRICULTURAL LAW REVIEW, VOLUME 18 2008-2009 NUMBER 1
The initial non-farm uses provided for in 1963 were public and private schools, churches, public or non-profit group parks, playgrounds or community centers, golf courses, utility facilities, and farm dwellings. Except for the deletion of farm dwellings between 1967 and 1969 there were no changes to the permitted non-farm uses. In 1973 commercial activities in conjunction with farm use, mining activities, private parks, playgrounds, hunting and fishing preserves and campgrounds, commercial power generating facilities and non-farm dwellings were added. From 1975 to 2009 there were 61 additional changes, almost all new uses.

2. Death by 1000 Cuts: A 10-Point Plan to Protect Oregon's Farmland, June, 2020, Executive Summary <https://friends.org/news/2020/6/death-1000-cuts-10-point-plan-protect-oregons-farmland>