



P.O Box 1083
McMinnville, OR 97128

April 5, 2017

Helping to shape the use of our natural resources to protect the quality of life in Yamhill County.

House Committee on Transportation Policy
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3231

Dear Chair McKeown and Committee members:

Friends of Yamhill County (FYC) works to protect natural resources through the implementation of land use planning goals, policies, and laws that maintain and improve the present and future quality of life in Yamhill County.

We are opposed to SB 3231, which authorizes special taxing and revenue district to finance and create limited access tollways. While the bill does not specify a specific limited access highway, it is apparently to facilitate a combined version of two ill-conceived and previously rejected projects- the Westside bypass and the French Prairie tollway proposed in 2013.

Agriculture is Oregon's second largest industry: 1 out of 8 jobs in this state is agriculture related, and the industry is directly and indirectly linked to about \$22 billion in sales of goods and services, accounting for 15% of the statewide total of sales involving all industry sectors. Agriculture is traded-sector – 80% is sold out of state with 40% exported out of the country, bringing new dollars into Oregon. And those figures have been increasing almost steadily for two decades, which is not a story any other industry can tell. Agricultural land should stay in agricultural use to support our second largest industry.

Oregon's number one producing agricultural county is Marion County at over \$600 million in annual farm sales. Washington County is not far behind. Paving over prime farmlands would take this valuable land out of industrial production to the detriment of o agriculture and our economy.

Another issue is induced demand. When additional road capacity is built, it is historically congested with traffic within a very short timeframe. Development follows the new road capacity. The Westside/French Prairie bypass would encourage development in the agricultural heart of the Willamette and Tualatin Valleys by opening up areas for development and spur more distant commuting patterns from towns like Newberg and St. Paul, with negative consequences for our efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

Please vote NO vote on SB 1036

Sincerely,

Sid Friedman
Friends of Yamhill County