BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARION COUNTY, OREGON

In the matter of declaring that	)
agriculture holds a high priority in	)
economic development for Marion	)
County	)

RESOLUTION # _____

WHEREAS, it is established policy of the State of Oregon that agricultural lands shall be preserved and maintained for farm use (Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, Goal 3: Agricultural Lands, OAR 660-015-0000(3)); and

WHEREAS, open land used for farm practices is an efficient means of conserving natural resources that constitute an important physical, social, aesthetic and economic asset to the people (ORS 215.243(1)); and

WHEREAS, the preservation and support of agricultural land is necessary for the conservation of our economic resources and maintaining our agricultural economy and for the assurance of adequate, healthful and nutritious food for the people (ORS 215.243(2)); and

WHEREAS, "commercial agricultural enterprises" consist of farm operations that will contribute in a substantial way to the area's existing agricultural economy, and help maintain agricultural processors and established farm markets (OAR 660-033-0020); and

WHEREAS, common non-farm uses approved by counties include "commercial activities in conjunction with farm use," "home occupations" (home-based businesses) and "utility facilities necessary for public service" (such as wastewater treatment, cell towers and electrical substations). (Oregon DLCD Farmland Protection Program, http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/pages/farmprotprog.aspx); and

WHEREAS, agri-tourism and other commercial events or activities related to and supportive of agriculture may be established in any area zoned for exclusive farm use (ORS 215.283(4)); and

WHEREAS, Oregon statute on Exclusive Farm Use zones permits a wide range of uses that has expanded over the years to be responsive to changing needs, such as farm stands, wineries and processing operations (ORS 215.283); and

WHEREAS, agriculture is the leading industry in the Marion County economy. It is the intent of Marion County to maintain the ability to economically farm these lands (Marion County Comprehensive Plan, Section II, A. Agricultural Lands

(http://www.co.marion.or.us/NR/rdonlyres/0E0F5E36-9AAD-4610-A94A-96D44A819D35/41202/AgLands.pdf)); and

WHEREAS, successful farm use today requires a combination of activities, a complex process that is ever evolving and brings continual challenges from market demands, technology, cost and other factors.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that:

A. Agriculture and commercial activities in conjunction with farm use hold a high priority in economic development for Marion County;

B. Marion County will uphold this priority in a manner that protects and supports commercial agricultural enterprises on lands zoned for exclusive farm use (EFU); and

C. Marion County will demonstrate a supportive attitude toward employers, businesses and property owners that promotes economic development and high standards of livability (Marion County 2012 Strategic Plan, Goal 4).

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DATED this _____ day of January 2013

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

_____
Chair

_____
Commissioner

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Commissioner