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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Agency Reacts to Appeal of Woodburn UGB Approval

Salem, Oregon. Officials at the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) today expressed disappointment that the agency's decision approving the Woodburn urban growth boundary (UGB) amendment has been appealed to the Oregon Court of Appeals.

"We believe the commission's order on remand faithfully responded to the directions we received from the court of appeals, and we are sorry that even more time will pass while the parties go through the court of appeals for a second time," said Acting Director Jerry Lidz. "In this case, the department and commission spent considerable effort helping Woodburn assure it has the right amount of land for new jobs and new housing development. We naturally are disappointed that this matter remains unresolved for the community, nearly five years after the commission first approved the city's growth plan."

Friends of Marion County, the Marion County Farm Bureau, and 1000 Friends of Oregon seek the review of the Land Conservation and Development Commission's (LCDC) February, 2011 action approving the UGB. A key issue in the dispute is whether Woodburn had included too much land for new industries in its UGB.

LCDC approved Woodburn's UGB proposal again this year after the Court of Appeals returned a 2007 decision to the commission for additional findings. LCDC approved the city's UGB amendment of 975 acres. The amendment added 19 new sites for employment uses, including a large site suitable for high-tech or green energy development, that could help Woodburn to diversify and improve its local economy.