

[your letterhead here]

Feb. 24, 2010

Jackson County Planning Commission
10 S. Oakdale Ave.
Medford, OR 97501

Re: Jackson County Farmland Conservation Program

Dear Commissioner Greene and Planning Commission,

I am writing to show my support of the Jackson County Farmland Conservation Program, which has been developed by Rogue Advocates and a coalition of farmers, farm advocates and citizens concerned with the loss of farmland that the Greater Bear Creek Regional Problem Solving (RPS) plan will generate.

By requiring that whenever farmland within Urban Reserve Areas (URAs) is annexed for development, farmland outside of the URAs must be permanently protected through a conservation easement, RPS can accomplish its stated goal of preserving our region's limited supply of farmland. Without a mechanism like this, RPS fails as a plan to fully protect our region's best agricultural lands.

I hope that the Jackson County Planning Commission views this program as the powerful tool for ensuring the continued viability of agriculture in our region that it is, and includes it as a part of the RPS plan. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this process that is critical to our region's future.

Sincerely,

[Supporter's name]