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March 18, 2011

Co-Chairs Barnhart and Berger  
Oregon House Revenue Committee  
State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2582

Dear Co-Chairs Barnhart and Berger and Committee Members:

MEASURE: HB 2582  
EXHIBIT: I  
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE  
DATE: 3/18/2011 PAGES: 2  
SUBMITTED BY: 1000 FRIENDS OF OREGON

Thank you for this opportunity to present written testimony on House Bill 2582. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that works with Oregonians to enhance our quality of life by building livable urban and rural communities, protecting family farms and forests, and conserving natural and scenic areas.

HB 2582 adjusts the age requirement for the elderly medical expense subtraction, and transfers the revenue to the Elderly and Disabled Special Transportation Fund. 1000 Friends of Oregon supports HB 2582, for several reasons. The provision of adequate transportation options for all sectors of our society is both a health and an environmental imperative.

Transit agencies are federally-required to provide special transportation service to seniors and people with disabilities, in the service areas where fixed-route service is offered. While this is an essential service, it is also very expensive. It presents transit providers with poor options when facing budget challenges, of eliminating fixed route service and thereby eliminating service on some routes for all.

And this is a growing challenge. Approximately 25% of Oregonians cannot or do not drive, usually due to age (too old or too young) or physical or medical limitations. As the population ages, that is percentage is rapidly increasing. Today, Oregon transit providers deliver over 5 million demand response trips annually to older adults and people with disabilities; this is anticipated to increase to over 10 million trips by 2020, due to both a growing senior population and increasing demand for service.

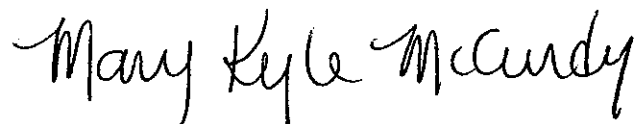
Providing transit options allows our older citizens to age in their own homes and communities, and to maintain independence. It allows those with medical limitations for driving to maintain independence.



Provision of transportation options also increases the welfare of all Oregonians, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing congestion. Elimination of key fixed routes undermines the multiple benefits of transit's core mission.

HB 2582 provides critical and focused resources to enable transit providers to continue robust service to all community residents. We urge you to support HB 2582. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Kyle McCurdy  
Policy Director