



133 SW Second Ave., Suite 201 • Portland, OR 97204 • (503) 497-1000 • fax (503) 223-0073 • www.friends.org
Southern Oregon Office • PO Box 2442 • Grants Pass, OR 97528 • (541) 474-1155 • fax (541) 474-9389
Willamette Valley Office • 220 East 11th Avenue, Suite 5 • Eugene, OR 97401 • (541) 520-3763 • fax (503) 575-2416
Central Oregon Office • 115 NW Oregon Ave #21 • Bend, OR 97701 • (541) 719-8221 • fax (866) 394-3089

March 22, 2013

To: House Human Services and Housing Committee
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2890 - Support

Dear Chair Tomei and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 2890, which would restore to local governments an important tool to ensure housing for all. State law (ORS 197.309) currently prohibits cities and counties from using the tool of inclusionary housing, sometimes called inclusionary zoning, to provide for affordable housing opportunities. HB 2809 would restore that tool to local governments. It does not require that the tool be used, but it would provide that option if a city decided it was appropriate for its community.

1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that works with Oregonians to support livable urban and rural communities, protect family farms and forests, and provide transportation and housing choice. Since our founding in 1975, 1000 Friends of Oregon has been an advocate for ensuring that every community has the land use tools necessary to provide housing for all its citizens.

Inclusionary housing is a method by which affordable housing can be incorporated into all neighborhoods. Many in our communities have challenges finding affordable housing, or staying in the neighborhoods where they have lived and raised families as their income or life situations change. Inclusionary housing is a tool communities can use to ensure that the elderly, those of modest means, veterans, the disabled, and others have opportunities for safe and affordable housing.

Inclusionary housing policies can be crafted by each community that chooses to use it to meet its local needs. The basic requirement is that a certain share of new housing must be affordable to those with low to moderate incomes. Inclusionary housing policies are currently used in 48 states to ensure that some portion of some new housing developments is available to the elderly, the disabled disabilities, veterans, and/or those of lower income. It ensures that these housing opportunities are integrated into the overall neighborhood fabric.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Policy Director and Staff Attorney