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March 24, 2015

Representative Brian Clem, Chair
Committee Members
House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water
State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3211

Dear Chair Clem and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon is a 40-year old, non-profit, statewide organization. We advocate for livable urban and rural communities, protecting family farms and forests, and conserving natural areas, largely through the implementation and improvement of Oregon's land use planning program.

1000 Friends opposes HB 3211, which would validate the urban reserves designated by Clackamas County and Metro in the Stafford Basin, because it is unnecessary. 1000 Friends has been involved with the Metro process to designate rural and urban reserves since the beginning. However, we have not been involved regarding the appropriate designation of the Stafford Basin area. The Court of Appeals remanded the decision to designate Stafford as an urban reserve because of an underlying evidentiary issue regarding the ability to provide urban level transportation in the area. This bill is unnecessary because on March 16, the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) sent the Stafford Basin designation back to Clackamas County and Metro to resolve. That seems to us the appropriate place for this discussion, on which clearly there is no consensus, and resolution to take place.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Policy Director and Staff Attorney