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May 7, 2015

Capital Construction Sub-Committee of Ways and Means
Oregon Housing and Community Services Bond Package

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Read, Members of the Committee:

1000 Friends of Oregon is a 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. This has included 40 years of advocating for a land use program that supports housing affordable for all Oregonians, in every community.

We are writing to support the proposed \$100 million long-term investment strategy in affordable housing. As a member of both the Oregon Housing Alliance and the Welcome Home Coalition, we hear from housing advocates, housing providers and houseless and low-income Oregonians how hard life is made because of the state's housing crisis. It is no longer solely about doing well in school, obtaining employment and working hard. It is now more about the state's ability to provide housing. Quite simply, we have not kept up with the demand of affordable housing and thus jeopardize a local jurisdiction's ability to comply with Goal 10.

Several years after the passage of HB 2001 (in 2009) and SB 1059 (in 2010), Portland Metro's December 2014 adoption of Climate Smart Communities instilled two important lessons.

First, Oregonians enthusiastically advocate for land use and transportation planning that reduces greenhouse gas emissions while also reducing housing and transportation costs. On the date of adoption, Metro Councilors heard from various stakeholders who supported the project. One 1000 Friends of Oregon's Land Use Leadership Initiative Fellow, living in Northeast Portland, stressed the importance of including funding for affordable housing, asking for investment in low income communities. She voiced her appreciation for the state and region's progress on climate change and hoped that housing would be seen as part of the conversation. Another Fellow, living in the Helvetia region in Washington County, wholeheartedly advocated for the Climate Smart Communities, mentioning how rampant subdivision sprawl of single-family homes has led to increased traffic negatively impacting farmers.

Second, the region learned that it must incorporate affordable housing as a core component of communities to meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The integration of affordable housing into transit-oriented development is critical. While the request before you today focuses on affordable housing, we hope that you will see how we fund affordable housing and our investments in climate resiliency are connected. The linkage of these issues translates into significant health benefits for our communities, as well long term savings in health care provision.



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We ask that you prioritize this long-term investment in affordable housing, a missing element in many climate strategies for our metropolitan planning areas. Goal 10 reminds us that housing is a key component of the statewide land use system, which was created by will of Oregonians, to benefit *all* Oregonians. We know that we have many partners ready to fulfill the state's housing needs. With your help, we can fund an Oregon where everyone has an opportunity to succeed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Samuel Diaz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Samuel Diaz
Community Engagement Coordinator