February 29, 2017

Chair Caddy McKeown
House Committee on Transportation
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2745

Dear Chair McKeown and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon supports HB 2745. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that works with Oregonians to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice.

A dependable and accessible transit system is an integral part of what makes and keeps both rural and urban communities livable, especially for the over ¼ of Oregonians who do not or cannot drive, due to age, health, or income. Transit – whether it is frequent bus service or a dial-a-ride service – provides access to employment, education, and health care, and keeps people integrated into their communities.

Yet Oregon provides funding for transit operations at a lower level than almost any other state. That is why we support HB 2745 – it represents an innovative way to meet some transit funding needs that was crafted by the local governments in central Oregon.

HB 2745 authorizes intergovernmental entities, upon approval by the elected officials and voters of the affected jurisdictions, to levy property taxes for transit services that can be designed to meet the needs of each community in the region.   We urge you to recommend passage of HB 2745, and allow the Central Oregon local jurisdictions to try this funding mechanism.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director