



133 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, 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 • PO Box 51252 • Eugene OR 97405 • (541) 520-3763  
Central Oregon Office • 155 NW Irving Ave • Bend OR 97703 • (541) 797-6761

March 1, 2017

Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 5527 – DLCD budget

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Dear Co-Chairs Fredrick and Witt and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon supports SB 5527, the budget for the Department of Land Conservation and Development, as the minimum it should be funded. However, we recommend additional funding to support a robust implementation of the land use planning program's Goal 10, Housing.

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.

Livable rural and urban communities includes housing that is affordable to all Oregonians. Much attention is paid to the "housing crisis" in the Portland metropolitan region, but that hides two key facts: *all* Oregon communities are facing challenges in ensuring that current and future residents and workers have affordable, safe housing; and, this is not a situation that developed recently, as implied by words like "crisis." Many factors have been feeding into this situation for years, and it will take many tools and time to relieve it.

Oregon's land use program plays a key role in addressing housing needs. Goal 10 requires:

**To provide for the housing needs of citizens of the state.** Buildable lands for residential use shall be inventoried and plans shall encourage the availability of adequate numbers of needed housing units at price ranges and rent levels which are commensurate with the financial capabilities of Oregon households and allow for flexibility of housing location, type and density

While cities of every size are required to ensure they have land appropriately zoned to meet the various housing needs of all, many land use plans have not been updated to reflect changing and projected population and demographic variables – including changes in age and household size – and the resulting housing needs. Many cities simply do not have the budget or staff to do this, often resulting in a lack of both overall housing and of diverse housing types to meet the needs of all Oregon families.

DLCD's initial budget request, made in fall 2016, included a joint request with the Oregon Housing & Community Services Department for two positions to provide technical support and tools to local governments to help them meet their housing needs, including for affordable housing. <sup>1</sup>

1000 Friends of Oregon supports funding for these two positions. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Kyle McCurdy  
Deputy Director

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<sup>1</sup> The DLCD 2017-19 Agency Budget Request of 9/2/16 described the budget impact of this as: “+\$315,912 GF/\$103,815 OF (+2.00 FTE PF).”

