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March 22, 2017

Chair Doherty
House Committee on Education
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2693

Dear Chair Doherty and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon supports House Bill 2693, which would establish a program under which the Department of Education awards grants to school districts for a percentage of certain student transportation costs.

1000 Friends 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.

We support HB 2693 because it provides critical transportation support to high school aged youth. This bill will help these younger members of our communities get to and from school and meet other needs, such as extracurricular activities and employment, through better access to transit and other transportation options. Students who do not have non-automobile transportation options are often limited because they don't have another way to get around. They miss out on sports, tutoring, or other extracurricular activities; they can't get to crucial after-school jobs; they struggle to connect to health and social services; and some suffer from chronic tardiness or absenteeism.

School districts can apply for grant funding to subsidize youth transit passes and/or increase transportation services to meet student needs. We urge you to support HB 2693

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Mary Kyle McCurdy,
Deputy Director