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April 3, 2017

House Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3373 - DLCD and OHCS housing funding

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 3373, a bill which we support. 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. Oregon's land use goals include Goal 10, Housing. This goal requires all cities to provide sufficient land zoned for residential use to meet the needs of all Oregonians, of all economic means, including by type, density, and location of the housing.

However, many cities have not been fulfilling their housing responsibilities under Goal 10, and therefore are not meeting the housing needs of their residents, for many reasons. 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. Other cities do not want to provide opportunities in their city or town for those of all economic means and family sizes to live.

HB 3373 would enable the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and the Oregon Housing & Community Services office to collaborate and thereby efficiently provide technical assistance, education, and other services to local governments – and especially to those smaller towns – to decrease unnecessary barriers and increase the availability of all housing, but especially affordable housing; and to update state policy and guidelines on housing.

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".

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director