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February 6, 2018

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
House Committee on Energy and Environment  
State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony on Clean Energy Jobs bills, SB 1507 and HB 4001

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting SB 1507 and HB 4001. 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.

Almost 40% of the state's greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector, mostly out of the tailpipes of cars and light trucks – in other words, from daily driving. 1000 Friends has been participating, for over a decade, in state and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by integrating land use and transportation planning in the state's largest cities, to reduce the need to drive and the distances we drive. We have done this by supporting statewide transit funding (last session's HB 2017); funding for safe sidewalks and bikeways; and by ensuring that diverse and affordable housing is within easy walking distance of transit. But there is much more to do, and while communities across the state would like to undertake these investments, they lack the funds. The Clean Energy Jobs bill provides the investment needed for more livable and sustainable towns and cities.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill will help to continue and expand these efforts in every community, not only by reducing polluting emission but also supporting livable, walkable communities. Investment from the bill will expand transit, create construction jobs by building out networks of safe and accessible sidewalks and bikeways, and by reinforcing transit through investing in affordable housing nearby.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill will support lower income rural communities in Eastern Oregon through investment in infrastructure, including: roads, bridges, and sidewalks and bikeways when part of the right-of-way, through the restricted Highway Trust Funds and investment in other projects and services through the non-restricted Climate Investment Fund. The investment in working lands and in rural communities will support both the long-term conservation and protection of Oregon's agricultural lands and forestlands and provide benefits to the workers employed in these industries. 1000 Friends strongly supports investment in

these rural communities and in Oregon's most vulnerable communities and populations, as determined by robust data collection and analysis.

The offset program will provide important incentives for investment in carbon storage in the state's working lands; take development pressure off some of these lands; and provide secondary benefits to the offset investments. Oregon's 45 million acres of agricultural and forest lands have substantial potential to store additional carbon. Offsets can be a method to encourage changes in forest management and agricultural practices that result in increased carbon storage, and also better soil health, less use of chemicals, and better long-term productivity. On the forest side, significant wildlands that happen to be in private ownership can be protected through offset programs (e.g. the Warm Springs tribal protection of lands adjacent to Mt. Jefferson through the California offset program). 1000 Friends supports offsets but notes that, as with other aspects of carbon pollution regulation, stringent rules, transparency, and enforcement is important in ensuring that the offset program is effective at reducing carbon.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Kyle McCurdy  
Policy Director and Staff Attorney