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February 7, 2019

House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony on HB 2315 – Public parks and open space conservation

Chair Clem and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2315. 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.

1000 Friends of Oregon supports this bill for the following reasons:

- This amendment will assist land trusts, public entities and other not-for-profit organizations entertain opportunities to donate property they own and manage to other public and private entities that share a conservation ethic and are providers of open space and public parks.
- Without a change in the statute, donations of properties under this subsection are currently not allowed. HB 2315 makes a technical improvement to Oregon's zoning statute and appropriately aligns the original intent of the legislature with the unintended consequence of placing a limitation on property transfers for conservation purposes.
- HB 2315 is not designed to solely promote any particular organization's land transfer interests. It furthers a public policy change which aims to save conservation organizations and providers of parks and open space money by allowing them to accept donations of land when a subdivision of property occurs that creates a parcel less than the minimum zoning requirement size for purposes enshrined in the statute.
- HB 2315 is not designed to favor an entity interested in donating or receiving donated property. It neither changes nor excludes any eligible entity already allowed to transact under the statute. Therefore, the same standards of land management and conservation practices mandated under this statute to date would continue.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge you to pass this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Meriel L. Darzen
Rural Lands Staff Attorney